

# THE JOURNAL

December 12, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

**Sports** Gaucho boys, girls set to open league soccer campaign [C1]

**Arts** Christmas ballet for kids is short and sweet [C12]


JUST letters, but drawings addressed to Santa Claus come through the Oakland post office, some requests are considered "Needy" and some "Greedy."

## Kids write the darndest things to Santa

By Martin Snapp  
STAFF WRITER

"Santa, I am very sorry I got spoiled, but I can't help it with Kendall. It is so deep on getting in trouble! I have any tips? Love, [signature]"

"Santa, I'm the only one who believes in you in this house. You're not mad at my [signature], and please don't give me a lump of coal. Love, Mer- [signature]"

"Santa, I love you. Give me presents. From Jaxon [signature]"

"Santa, letters like these ended up in the dead-letter office at the Post Office, the final place for undeliverable mail in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Then they'd be tossed for a few months until they were finally thrown out. One day 18 years ago, [signature] Ramirez, the head of the

post office's consumer affairs department, happened to read a few. Touched by what she'd read, she decided to write back in Santa's name.

The next year, some of her co-workers joined in. The year after that, they decided to include the public.

Every Christmas time, Ramirez and her fellow elves — Carla Ralph, Margarita Abbott, Olivia Marcus, Rita Christobal, Lucilla Ly, David Thompson, Brenda Presley and Janet Ezell — divide the letters into two huge piles, labeled "Needy" and "Greedy." And members of the public are welcome to answer as many of either category as they like.

"You don't necessarily have to send a present," says Ramirez. "Most of the things they ask for can't be bought with money, anyway. What they really want to know someone is listening."

Does writing back do any good? As proof, Ramirez points

to this letter that arrived last week:

"Dear Santa, It's been a long time since I last wrote you. I was nine, and I had a very personal request."

"When I was little, I believed in you, as did every child. But as got older, my faith somewhat dwindled. So I decided to take matters into my own hands: I mailed the letter myself. My mother had no idea, so I know she didn't write back."

"In my letter, I asked that you send me my father. You wrote back saying that it was a big request and I might not get it this Christmas, but to pray, and you would pray with me."

"I did, and five years later my father came home. But it wasn't until two or three years ago that I realized that it was you who brought him home to me."

Now, I know you might just be some man at the post office

See SANTA, Page A11

## Meet the mayor

Letitia Moore brings a new life to sharing life's moments to El Cerrito post

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — There are many ways of looking at her life, Mayor Letitia Moore. One: It has been tragic and beautiful. The other, which Moore says she's been blessed and

grateful. "I have had a blessed life," Moore, 38, "And I think that the balance (of life) is in having some of those blessings." As an adult, Moore has accomplished much: She's been an attorney for the federal Environmental Protection Agency for 14 years. In her second job, as she sits on the City Council, she

just became the city's first black mayor.

Born in the Central American country of Belize, Moore's life took a tragic turn when she was 6 years old. Her mother died shortly after giving birth to a still-born baby. Moore was sent to be raised by her grandmother in the United States. The two settled in South Central Los Angeles.

While her grandmother Florine Neal cleaned homes for a living, Moore excelled at school. Though poor, she was helped by the nonprofit organization A Better Chance to attend the prestigious Westlake School for Girls the last two years of high school.

That experience was pivotal. Moore always expected to go to

See MOORE, Page A9



NEW MAYOR Letitia Moore is the first African American to hold the El Cerrito post.

## Theater vote delayed

■ Redevelopment staff needs more time to consider funding

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A decision on whether to allocate \$2.5 million to renovate and bring to life the Cerrito Theater has been postponed to January, giving the redevelopment agency time to figure out where the money will come from.

"We weren't finished with the

analysis," said redevelopment manager Lori Trevino. "We didn't feel comfortable doing it three or four days from now."

Trevino was one of the speakers at a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9, designed to elicit suggestions on how to raise an additional \$250,000 to \$300,000 to preserve the historic elements of the theater, build a marquee, do sidewalk improvements and have extra money left over for unforeseen costs.

About 80 people attended the meeting. Friends of the Cerrito

Theater co-chair Ann Lehman told them the group is looking to raise the money by the end of 2004.

"We have our work cut out for us," she said.

The theater is expected to be built by April 2005, said Lehman, if the redevelopment agency agrees to fund it.

The agency had been scheduled to make the allocation decision on Monday, Dec. 15. The agency's share would amount to

See DELAY, Page A10

## Creek free to go its own way

■ Restoration spruces up Cerrito Creek with new plantings, 'meanders' and places to sit

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — At El Cerrito Plaza, a portion of Cerrito Creek flows through an urban landscape, past a parking lot and apartment buildings. A BART train flies by in the distance.

It's also been transformed. Concrete barriers alongside it have been removed. Water flows down it unimpeded by garbage. Thousands of plants, bushes and trees have been planted. The banks slope down gradually and are covered with vegetation.

"There's places where you can sit and enjoy it," said Susan Schwartz, president of creek advocacy group Friends of Five Creeks.

The Cerrito Creek restoration was completed earlier this month and will be celebrated with a dedication and ribbon-cutting Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 12:30 p.m. The event, led by Mayor Letitia Moore, will be held at the creek, south of Trader Joe's at El Cerrito Plaza.

The project is part of an effort to preserve and enhance natural waterways in the area. It was paid for mainly through a



HEATHER KOCH/CONTRIBUTED

THIS STRETCH of the creek restoration, looking west from the cluster of redwoods at Kains Avenue in early November before planting was started, shows many of the improvements made to the creek. These include more stabilized and gently sloped banks, a more natural meandering channel, and erosion control matting that keeps the soil in place while new plants become established.

\$400,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency dedicated to protecting waterways.

Schwartz said the project came about as a result of the El Cerrito Plaza remodeling in the late 1990s. Regency Centers gave the land, along the south side of

See CREEK, Page A10

### IF YOU GO

WHAT: Cerrito Creek restoration dedication and ribbon-cutting

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Cerrito Creek, south of Trader Joe's at El Cerrito Plaza

INFORMATION: 510-215-4380

## Play's the thing at Castro Park

■ New play structures part of plan that's improving parks all over the city

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The children could barely contain themselves.

While the adults made speeches, thanked people and otherwise did boring adult stuff, the kids just wanted to do one thing.

And after the speeches were made, about 40 children made a beeline for the city's newest play structure at Castro Park. Its main attraction was a climbing wall, which the children alternatively described as "awesome," "scary" and "new."

"It's like a new thing and it's fun," one boy said as he waited with scores of others to try out the new structure during an afternoon ribbon cutting and dedication on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

The new climbing wall and other Castro Park improvements are part of an effort to update the city's playgrounds to current safety standards, said public



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

KIDS SWARM over the new climbing wall at Castro Park — there's a soft surface below for those jumping off.

### IF YOU GO

Castro Park is located at Gladys Avenue and Norwell Street. For more information about the new play structures, call 510-215-4370.

works director Dan Clark. The wall includes directions on use, a floor that feels soft and appropriate "fall zones" where children can drop safely without hurting themselves.

The ribbon-cutting included a speech by El Cerrito Mayor Pro Tem Sandi Potter, who thanked a number of people for their

work in seeing the project through. "The whole community has provided incredible support," she said.

She handed off the ceremonial reins to Councilwoman Janet Abelson. Sensing the eagerness of scores of waiting children, Abelson jettisoned any planned remarks and instead asked the children if they thought they should get started. The children yelled out "Yeah!" and erupted into a spontaneous countdown, like a rocket was about to be launched.

See PARK Page A10

### At the Library

■ Access to information is basic to libraries — but information in what form? Page A5

### Community Folk

■ Albany Middle School chorus prepares for winter concert. Page A3



### Martin Snapp

■ Sundar Shadi's famed sculptures return to hillside for Christmas. Page A3

Police Reports .....A2  
Places & Faces .....A3  
Opinion .....A4  
Sports .....C1  
Arts .....C12  
Crossword .....C6

INSIDE

KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR LIFE



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Albany

## Police, fire help collect Toys for Tots

For the past eight years the Albany Police and Fire departments have supported the Toys for Tots program, the program in which the Marine Corps Reserve has participated since 1947. Officer David A. Belman Jr., who is also a Marine, coordinates the Albany program. New, unwrapped toys can be placed in toy barrels until Dec. 23 at the following Albany locations: Police Department (24 hours), Fire Department, City Hall, Albany Pool, Albany Ford, B of A, Citibank, Mary & Joe's Sports Shop, Norge Cleaners & World Savings Bank.

## Albany looking for many volunteers

The City of Albany needs volunteers for both long-term assignments and special events in a variety of city departments; at City Hall, at the Senior Center, at the Police Department, and more.

For more information, contact Ely Hwang, volunteer coordinator, at 510-559-7225 or ehwang@albanyca.org.

## El Cerrito

## History lives on in Society's artifacts

The El Cerrito Historical Society is exhibiting items from its collections in the El Cerrito Library's exhibit case through December. Items include pottery from TepCo, as well as old milk bottles from El Cerrito's early dairies. The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave.

## Page Turners schedule January meeting

El Cerrito High School's book group, Page Turners, will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in Room 604 to discuss "The Mistress of Spices," by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. The 3-year-old group welcomes parents, students, teachers and siblings. The meetings are open to anyone in the El Cerrito school community.

For information call Paula Gocker or Joan Cone at 510-524-9560.

## Symphony concert has a holiday theme

The Kensington Symphony will present a concert under the direction of guest conductor Timothy Smith, on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church is at 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

Smith, chairman of the music department at California State University, Hayward, will lead the symphony in a program featuring the works of Strauss, Corelli and Mendelssohn.

The special holiday concert begins with Strauss' "Festival March," written when the composer was only 12 years old. Next will be the "Christmas Concerto" by Italian composer/violinist Arcangelo Corelli.

Suggested donation: \$10; seniors \$8. Children free. For more information phone: 510-524-4335.

## Richmond

## Friends of the Library sale set for Dec. 13

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library will hold a large book sale at the Richmond Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the library's MFW Community Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza.

Proceeds from the book sale will provide much needed support for the library. Friends members will give in an hour earlier, at 10 a.m. The book sale will open to Friends members at 10 a.m. and for the general public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information call 510-620-6561.

## Berkeley

## Menorah lightings, ice skating scheduled

Community Menorah lightings will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and at 4:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Frank Ogawa Plaza in front of City Hall in Berkeley. Another lighting service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Cody's Book Store, 1730 Fourth St.

Chabad of the East Bay will host a family ice skating party at from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Berkeley Iceland, 2727 Milvia.

There will be kosher foods, arts and crafts for sale, as well as free dreidels and a Hanukkah gelt skate with Judah Maccabee for lighting the ice menorah.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door; to reserve space or get more information, call 510-540-5824.

## Alameda County

## Help find those extraordinary women

The search is on for 10 extraordinary women who will be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame in March 2004. Hall of Fame organizers kicked off the 11th annual search for entrants with a presentation before the Board of Supervisors, which passed a proclamation pledging continued support for the effort.

Nomination forms are being distributed and must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 9, 2004.

Women of all ages, including youth, may be nominated in the categories of business, community service, art, education, environmental preservation, health, justice, science, sports and youth. Nominees should be established in their respective careers or volunteer positions, with significant achievements that have benefited the community.

Nominations forms may be picked up at the County's Administration Office, at 1221 Oak St., 5th floor, Suite 555 or sent to anyone who calls the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women at 510-259-3871.

## ALBANY POLICE

## Monday, Dec. 1

■ **BIKE STOLEN** — Between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. thieves stole a bicycle that was at Albany High School on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 8 p.m. officers arrested a 49-year-old San Francisco man near Central and Pierce streets for an outstanding Alameda County warrant for driving with a suspended license in the amount of \$5,000. He was cited and released.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 12:30 p.m. officers arrested a 65-year-old man for disorderly conduct who was visiting the University Village. He was cited and released.

## Tuesday, Dec. 2

■ **JEEP STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a white '89 Jeep that was parked on the 700 block of Santa Fe Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **PRODUCE THIEF** — At about 2 p.m. a thief grabbed produce from a business on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue and fled in a gray and white older model Toyota Corolla. He was last seen traveling south on Evelyn Avenue and was gone when officers arrived.

■ **LYING TO AN OFFICER** — At about 11 p.m. officers contacted a 20-year-old Richmond man driving a '95 Honda for lying to an officer. He was cited and released.

## Wednesday, Dec. 3

■ **OWNER FINDS STOLEN CAR** — A Berkeley woman reported that while she was on the 900 block of Masonic Avenue she located her gray '87 Toyota that had been stolen previously.

■ **DRUG CHARGES** — Officers stopped a brown '73 Chevrolet near Marin and Talbot avenues for expired registration. They arrested the driver, a 45-year-old Oakland man, for possession of a controlled substance and driving with a suspended license.

He was transported to the Berkeley jail.

■ **INTOXICATED** — At about 3 p.m. officers responded to the 1100 block of Masonic Avenue on reports of a subject lying on the grass who appeared to be intoxicated. Officers contacted the Berkeley man and found he was indeed intoxicated. A check also found he had outstanding warrants from Berkeley for disorderly conduct, petty theft and repeated violations. He was arrested, cited and released.

■ **BANK ROBBERY** — At about 4 p.m. officers responded to a silent alarm from a bank on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. The robber threatened a teller, then fled on Santa Fe Avenue. He was gone when officers arrived.

## Thursday, Dec. 4

■ **AUTO STOLEN** — At about 1:30 p.m. thieves stole a white '86 Acura parked on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue. There were no witnesses.

## Friday, Dec. 5

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 10 a.m. officers stopped a black '89 Jeep Cherokee near Buchanan and Fillmore streets for running a red light. The driver, a 22-year-old Richmond man, was found to have warrants out of Chico totaling \$5,000. He was arrested and released when he posted bail.

■ **BREAK-IN** — Thieves broke into storage lockers on the 1000 block of Washington Avenue.

■ **VAN STOLEN** — Thieves stole a white '87 Toyota van with a blue stripe on each side that was parked near Kains and Portland avenues. There were no witnesses.

■ **THREE ARRESTED** — Officers responded to the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue on several reports of a fight across the street from Albany Bowl. They arrested a 20-year-old Richmond man for battery, a 20-year-old Richmond woman for fighting and a 30-year-old Richmond man for fighting. They were cited and released.

## EL CERRITO POLICE

## Thursday, Nov. 20

■ **ROBBERY** — At about 2:30 p.m., an officer went to Granter's Jewelry and Loan to investigate a reported theft. An employee told him a man had come in and asked to see a ring, then attempted to leave with it. But when the employee grabbed the suspect, the suspect threw the ring down and fled on foot. The suspect, a 49-year-old Oakland man, was found later at El Cerrito Plaza, arrested and taken to the Martinez jail.

■ **DOMESTIC** — Officers responded to the call of a couple causing a disturbance in the Target parking lot at about 8:50 p.m. Family members had arrived and subdued the man, who had tried to take the woman's cell phone. Officers arrested a 24-year-old Vallejo man for attempted grand theft and battery, and took him to the Martinez jail.

## Wednesday, Nov. 26

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — Someone stole a blue 1987 Toyota Corolla between about midnight Thursday and 7 a.m. Thursday, from the 1200 block of Rivera Street. It was found Friday by officers.

■ **BURGLARY** — A thief or thieves used a screwdriver to break through a lock on a sliding glass door on the 400 block of Clayton Avenue between 9:30 a.m. Thursday and just after midnight Friday. They stole cash and jewelry, and left the through the same door.

## Thursday, Nov. 27

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A bronze, 1987 Toyota van was stolen from the 5400 block of Poinsett Avenue between 5 and 8:50 p.m.

## Child Support Services wins awards

Alameda County's Department of Child Support Services is the recipient of four statewide performance awards from the California Department of Child Support. The County is ranked first among large counties at establishing paternity for children; collecting child support payments; and for collecting past due payments. It is also ranked among the 10 best counties in the State at meeting federal performance standards.

There was shuttle service on Nov. 29, and a shuttle will run on the afternoon of Dec. 24. The Journal corrects all significant factual errors that to the editors' attention.

Find the Journal online at  
contracostatimes.com

HARBOR BAY ISLE - ALAMEDA  
GOLDEN AGE BAYSIDE  
ASSISTED LIVING, Inc.

- Home Environment
  - All Levels of Care Accepted
- 510.522.3812

For more information, visit our WEB Site at:  
www.goldenagebayside.com

Berkeley Farmers' Market  
Holiday Crafts Fair

A Benefit for  
the Ecology Center

Saturdays  
December 6, 13 & 20  
10 am - 4 pm

Civic Center Park, Berkeley  
(Center St. at MLK, Jr. Way)

handcrafted gifts by local artists  
free admission • live music • hot apple cider  
(510) 548-3333 • www.ecologycenter.org

## Saturday, Dec. 6

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 1:30 a.m. officers responded to a 911 call on the 500 block of Kains Avenue regarding a loud disturbance. They arrested the 38-year-old Albany woman for disorderly conduct. She was cited and released.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — Someone broke into a black Honda Civic that was parked on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue.

■ **HOME BREAK-IN** — A resident on the 600 block of Gateview Street reported that thieves had broken into her home and stole items. There were no witnesses.

## Sunday, Dec. 7

■ **TWO ARRESTED** — At about 2 a.m. officers stopped a blue '87 BMW 325 near Johnson and Cleveland streets for having no lights on. A check found that the car had been reported as stolen out of Fremont in October. The driver, a 26-year-old Albany woman, was arrested for possession of stolen property. She was released. The passenger in the vehicle, a 31-year-old Hayward man, was arrested for possession of stolen property and transported to Berkeley jail. The vehicle was towed and the owner notified.

■ **INTOXICATED VANDAL** — At about 3 a.m. officers responded to reports that a subject had kicked in the window of an auto dealership on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue. The subject was yelling from inside the building and possibly intoxicated. Officers arrested the 35-year-old Berkeley man for vandalism, trespassing and disorderly conduct. He was cited and released. The business owner responded to seal the window and secure the business.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night thieves smashed the window of a red '98 Isuzu parked at 555 Pierce Street.

■ **AUTO RECOVERED** — El Cerrito Police Department reported locating a blue '91 Honda Accord that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The vehicle was not damaged and they

did not have anyone in the car was released to the scene.

■ **MAIL THIEVES** — Thieves broke into a 400 block of Starline Blvd. near Solano and Orinda. They arrested the 34-year-old Solano Avenue by mail.

## Monday, Dec. 8

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped a driver of a yellow '95 Ford for driving with a suspended license. They arrested the 34-year-old Solano Avenue by mail.

■ **AUTO VANDAL** — Thieves broke into a 1200 block of Gateview Street. They arrested the 34-year-old Solano Avenue by mail.

■ **DISTURBING THE PEACE** — At about 3 p.m. officers stopped a 1100 block of Costa Avenue. They arrested the 34-year-old Solano Avenue by mail.

## Summary

During the week of Dec. 1, officers towed two cars, issued false alarms, assisted two dogs who were locked out of their homes, responded to two reports of dogs. In the domestic violence category, 14 civil cases, 165 civil cases, 103 officers or persons, 54 warnings and 54 warnings. Firefighter/paramedics responded to nine medical emergencies.

## Friday, Nov. 28

■ **ROBBERY** — Three teen-agers were reported to have stopped a bicyclist at about 3:30 p.m., stolen his wallet, pushed him to the ground and fled into El Cerrito Plaza.

## Saturday, Nov. 29

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Someone smashed the driver's side window of a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria between about midnight and 4:40 a.m. and took paperwork.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A black, four-door 1997 Honda Civic was reported stolen between 11 a.m. and 6:50 p.m., but the victim could not provide the license plate number, and to whom it was registered was unclear. The victim was supposed to go home and call back with the information but never did.

## Sunday, Nov. 29

■ **BURGLARY** — A resident of 900 block of Balboa Drive was notified of \$1,600 in property loss at 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A red Acura Integra was stolen from Cerrito Plaza lot between 4 and 5 p.m.

## Wednesday, Dec. 3

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A cream-colored 1967 Mercedes 230 was reported stolen from 8300 block of Kent Court between 9:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

## Thursday, Dec. 4

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A silver door 1987 Toyota Camry was stolen from 3 in Berkeley was recovered at 6300 block of Waldo Lane.

## CORRECTION

The People column on Dec. 5 contained incorrect information about shuttle service for shoppers in Albany on Solano and San Pablo avenues.

There was shuttle service on Nov. 29, and a shuttle will run on the afternoon of Dec. 24. The Journal corrects all significant factual errors that to the editors' attention.

Reporters' and editors' numbers are listed on page 1. To report an error, please call the reporter responsible or editor at 510-262-2724. Or email: journal@ccimes.com.

## THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 • 510-262-2724

Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, circulation manager

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$75 for six months or \$145 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4637.

## EDITORIAL

All items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed.

NEWSROOM: 510-262-2724  
e-mail: journal@ccimes.com  
fax: 510-243-3574

EDITOR Deborah Byrd:  
510-262-2724 • dbyrd@ccimes.com

NEWS STAFF:  
Alan Lopez: 510-243-3578  
alopez1@ccimes.com  
Martin Snapp: 510-262-2787 or  
msnapp@ccimes.com

SPORTS  
Mike McGreehan: 510-748-1661  
mmcgreehan@ccimes.com  
Scott Strain: 510-748-1662  
sstrain@ccimes.com

## ADVERTISING

Classified advertising deadlines are 11 a.m. the day before publication.

Verified Audit Circulation

Recycled newsprint

**PIPPEN HILL**  
1356 Park Street, Alameda, CA 94501 510-814-0712

Special Holiday Hours Begin  
Nov. 13th  
Thurs., Fri., & Sat.  
from 10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Children's clothing, toys and gifts  
Infants to 6x

Open Sunday 11:00-5:00 Monday through Wednesday 10:00-6:30 Thursday through Saturday 10:00-9:00

**建發石材總匯**  
**SUPERIOR MARBLE CENTER**  
Specializing in Kitchen Countertops

• Cabinets  
• Vanities  
• Diamond Blade Wholesale  
• Granite Countertops  
• Granite Floor Tiles  
• Ceramic Tiles  
• Tubs  
• Fireplaces

78" X 26" CT ONLY  
\$68.00 AND UP

• FABRICATION • INSTALLATION  
Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
2314 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, CA 94612  
TEL: 510-238-8328 FAX: 510-238-0128  
Largest Selection in the Bay Area • Best Retail - Wholesale Price

**Berkeley Farmers' Market**  
**Holiday Crafts Fair**

A Benefit for  
the Ecology Center

Saturdays  
December 6, 13 & 20  
10 am - 4 pm

Civic Center Park, Berkeley  
(Center St. at MLK, Jr. Way)

handcrafted gifts by local artists  
free admission • live music • hot apple cider  
(510) 548-3333 • www.ecologycenter.org



# Neighbors



## El Cerrito angel honors a lost father

MARK DUFRENE/TIMES

**MARK CANEPA**, center, with his helpers, nephew Michael Canepa, left, and Matthew Latham, installs a lighted, 15-foot metal angel Monday above El Cerrito Lighting on San Pablo Avenue. Canepa, who owns an art gallery next door, used the technique as float builders in constructing the frame. He built the angel as a tribute to his father Ed Canepa, who died in October.

### PLACES

**Laurel Balyeat Morrison** is that her congregation at New Life Church of El Cerrito will present "Christmas Around the World," a pageant of dance — and dessert — the traditions of Mexico, Scandinavia and Italy, among others, on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mount School Auditorium at Neamey St., across from the Cerrito Library. The Ben Oni Orchestra, a choral group that plays jazz, contemporary, jazz and world music, will perform. The program is a benefit for the Ben Oni Orchestra. For more information and a free will offering will be taken. For information call Morrison, at 510-895-3035. You can find pictures of "Christmas Around the

World" programs at [www.NewLifeInJesus.net](http://www.NewLifeInJesus.net).

Albany artist **Carole Fitzgerald** writes to tell us that her 72-by 42-inch watercolor "Paintbrush and Yucca" was installed at the new Red Rocks Amphitheatre Visitors Center in Denver. There will be a dedication ceremony Monday, Dec. 15, as part of the city's public art program.

Fitzgerald is an art instructor at City College of San Francisco. In 2001 she led a group to the south of France for a week of art and culture, she says, and plans to lead another in July 2004.

— Staff reports



CONTRIBUTED

"PAINTBRUSH AND YUCCA," a watercolor by Carole Fitzgerald of Albany, is on display in Denver as part of the city's public art program.

## Joyous sounds of winter at Albany Middle School

**ERIC VAN JAMES** is excited, eager and just a little nervous about the winter concert to be presented on Monday by his Albany Middle School chorus. "The children are working very hard and I'm very proud of them. I think they will delight everyone," he says.

The chorus is made up of 19, seventh- and eighth-graders. Some of the older students will sing part of the program for the Hillside Club in Albany this weekend; highlights of the program show their "Kokoleoko," a Liberian song; the rhythm-and-song classic "Stand By Me"; and a piece from the oratorio "The Maccabees."

This is the first year of this concert. In fact, this is the first year that Eric Van James has taught children. All of his teaching up to now has been adult classes. Before school began this year, he says, he visited other classes and told students about it. Now he has a group of 64.

Eric meets with his sixth-graders six days a week, and seventh- and eighth-graders five days a week. He has re-



**CLARA-RAE GENSER**  
Community Folk

cently added after school rehearsals. Volunteer accompanists are Esther Olsen and Mary McKenna.

I met Eric when he recognized me as he passed the table at Barnes & Noble in El Cerrito, where Martha Hurley and I were wrapping gifts as a fund-raiser for the East Bay League of the San Francisco Symphony.

"Don't you write that column in the Journal?" he asked me. He was eager to talk, and the conversation turned to the challenge this new teacher was have with one of his eighth-graders. Eighth grade: a year many of us remember with a shudder.

But it was obvious that James knew all of the children, and most of their parents as well. In fact, while we were talking, one of the parents

came by and delightedly waved at him. "I love this job," he said with a smile. "I love the children and I love music. I am extremely fortunate and grateful to be doing this."

Eric lives in Richmond, but he grew up in Berkeley, where he attended Berkeley High, and then he earned his bachelor's degree in music at San Francisco State University. He is now completing a master's degree. He said he's always loved music, but didn't think about it as a career until he took piano lessons at 17, and began studying at Diablo Valley College. He had a semester at Hayward State before attending San Francisco State, where he had teachers, including one who had studied with Schoenberg, who really inspired him. He spoke of the music his father played at home, of the classics and of modern groups. He considers Duke Ellington the greatest American musician.

It was a joy talking with this young man who is so passionate about what he is doing. I wish him, and his chorus, success.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is [crgenser@aol.com](mailto:crgenser@aol.com).

### Look Better Naked!

**Lose all the weight You want for \$27<sup>00</sup>/wk Includes Medication!**

*for Healthy Living*

"Let us help you take the steps to a slimmer, healthier you!"

**(510) 595-9888**

3317 Elm Street, Suite 102 • Oakland, California 94609

### CELADON FINE TEAS

Premium, whole leaf teas from around the world

Serene Tea Room

Complimentary Tea Tasting

1111 Solano Ave., Albany, CA 94706

**(510) 524-1696**

## Sundar Shadi's legacy continues in El Cerrito

**G**LAD TIDINGS for El Cerritos and everyone who treasures the spirit of Christmas: The Shadi sculptures will return tomorrow morning! El Cerrito firefighters will begin hauling them up the hill at 8 a.m., and with any luck everything should be in place by noon.

Just drive up Moeser Lane toward Portola Middle School, and you'll start to see life-sized, papier-mâché shepherds lining the road, leading you to the complete Nativity scene on the hillside at the corner of Moeser and Seaview.

And they're in better shape than ever, thanks to dedicated volunteers such as Matt Houser, a senior at El Cerrito High, who restored three camels and two wise men as his Eagle Scout project.

Sundar Shadi, the man who created all this, was an immigrant from India who came to this country in 1921. He got a master's degree in horticulture from Cal, but the prevailing prejudice against non-citizens prevented him from getting any job except pumping gas.

Instead of complaining, he played the hand that was dealt him and eventually made a small fortune in business. When he retired in 1949, he commenced his true calling: creating an elaborate Nativity display — hundreds of wise men, doves, sheep, lambs, angels, shepherds, cows, horses, donkeys, dogs, camels and Bibles — every year on his sprawling hillside yard on The Arlington.

Tourists by the charter busload used to come from as far away as Sacramento and San Jose — more than 70,000 every year, by conservative estimate.

For many folks around here, Mr. Shadi was Christmas. He was a real-life Santa Claus who gave his neighbors something more precious than toys: the true spirit of the season. The incredible work he went through every year was his gift of love to us.

The funny thing is that he wasn't a Christian himself. He just wanted to say, "I love you" in a language we could understand.

When age and failing eyesight finally forced him to stop in 1996 at age 96, then-Mayor Jean Siri spoke for the whole city when she said, "I feel a great vacancy. First it was my tradition, then my kids' tradition, and now my grandchild-



**MARTIN SNAPP**  
Snapp Shots

dren's tradition." Mr. Shadi died last year at age 101. But the people of El Cerrito refused to let his legacy fade away. Under the leadership of another former mayor, Jane Bartke, the El Cerrito Community Foundation and the Soroptomist Club have been restoring the Shadi sculptures, which had deteriorated since his retirement, back to their former glory. Last Christmas they were displayed for the first time since Mr. Shadi retired.

The artistic consultant is retired firefighter Gordon White, who was Mr. Shadi's chief helper. Mike Gonzales of El Cerrito Electric runs all the technical stuff. And Mr. Shadi's daughter, Vera, contributed a CD of the Christmas music her dad used to accompany the display.

And you, too, can be part of this tradition: You can sponsor your very own sculpture. For \$500 you can sponsor a wise man. A shepherd will cost you \$200, the Big Blue Star will cost you \$350, and a camel will cost you anywhere from \$100 to \$200, depending on the size.

On the other hand, sheep are a real bargain at only \$25. The priciest item is the angel, which goes for a cool \$1,000.

The money raised will pay for whatever can't be donated: electricity, light bulbs, lumber, electrical cords, insurance and storage.

If you want to help, call Bartke at 510-235-1315 or send your donation — tax-deductible, of course — to the El Cerrito Community Foundation, P.O. Box 324, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

No one is more pleased by the sculptures' return than the Shadi family. "I'm thrilled!" says Vera. "It's a wonderful tribute to my father, and to the people of the city he loved so much."

In keeping with the tradition started by Mr. Shadi, the sculptures will be up through Christmas Day.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email [msnapp@cc-times.com](mailto:msnapp@cc-times.com).

"I have over 35 years of quality custom picture framing design experience."

—Tom Brodehl, Designer/Owner

**Oakland's Montclair Village**  
1973-2003 — My 30th Year

**ART LOFT**  
2082 Antioch Court  
**510-339-0890**  
[www.artloftframing.com](http://www.artloftframing.com)

Off Hwy 13 at Moraga Ave.  
10 minutes from Orinda Crossroads  
(3 doors south of Peel's Coffee & Teas)

## Ouch!

**Have the last few years caused severe pain in your portfolio?**

Then perhaps your investments aren't as diversified as they need to be. I can review your current holdings and provide an in-depth analysis to determine whether your portfolio has the proper balance to help you reduce risk and meet your long-term financial needs. Call me today for a free portfolio review.

**Leila S. Gough**  
Associate Vice President-Investments  
1999 Harrison St., Suite 2050  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 452-8060

**A.G. Edwards**  
INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887  
Member SIPC • 2003 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

### New Year's Celebration at Hs Lordships Restaurant

Live Music to Welcome 2004!  
Dine & Dance  
Champagne & Gourmet Dinner

**On The Berkeley Marina**  
199 Seaway Drive • Berkeley  
**510-843-2733**

## Spilman's Collectibles

Home of The Family Jules

**FURNITURE**  
Glass • Ceramics  
Accessories • Jewelry  
Clothing • Collectibles

**HUGE PARKING LOT SALE!**  
Every Weekend (Weather Permitting)

Bring in this ad and receive 10% off any negotiated price!

1730 San Pablo Ave • Berkeley • (510) 526-5770  
All major credit and debit cards accepted.

[www.thefamilyjules.com](http://www.thefamilyjules.com)



GENERAL MANAGER • SHAREEF DAJANI  
HILLS EDITOR • DEBORAH BYRD

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

## THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

## EDITORIAL

## Seismic safety a concern at ECHS

THE ONE thing everyone seems to agree on about El Cerrito High School is that the old building is inadequate and must be rebuilt.

But two plans for rebuilding the 65-year-old school have split the community and become an issue of remarkable passion and contention.

The West Contra Costa school board ended a Dec. 3 meeting about the school plans when discussion became so heated that it was clear no further progress would be made.

"The issue is so out of proportion," school board trustee Karen Leong Fenton said at the time. "People who are now at odds with each other have to start changing their attitudes."

The school board wants the community to come to a consensus and gave it a Jan. 7 deadline to do so.

Given the history of this issue, neither changing attitudes nor coming to a consensus seem likely.

One plan, called the "middle plan," which has the backing of the school site committee, students and the PTA, would move school buildings to the center of the 16-acre campus.

The opposition holds that the middle plan would block neighbors' views and sunlight, and would require an Environmental Impact Report.

The other plan, called either the "hybrid scheme" or the "north plan," would rebuild the school on its current footprint. It is backed by school district staff and many neighbors, presumably the ones who stand to lose their views if the other plan is chosen.

But the north plan would require students to attend school in portable buildings for two years and three months of estimated construction time for the new school.

Projected costs for both plans are similar, about \$100 million, although the middle plan could come in under that figure by \$2.5 million.

At last week's meeting, school board trustee George Harris III warned that if the community factions can't come to a consensus, the school board will have to make a "horrible" decision and anger a lot of people.

We're not psychic, but based on what's gone before, we predict that is exactly what will happen.

The debate, we believe, has raged for so long without resolution because of one simple thing: These are both good plans. Either one will result in a brand-new school for El Cerrito — and Kensington, and some Richmond — children to attend.

Most of the problems with either plan sound relatively short-term.

In, let's say, seven years, there will be a new high school — wherever it is placed on the site. Meanwhile, the students attending now or who start during construction will have moved on.

The blocked views connected with the middle plan will, for future generations, be a given, though they're clearly going to be a big negative for those neighbors living there now.

But there seems to be another serious short-term concern: the seismic safety of the school.

We believe this is an issue that deserves a closer look.

Proponents of the middle plan cite the students being able to stay in the old school as a plus. But is it?

No one can predict when the next big earthquake will occur. What if it happens before the new school is ready?

If the north plan is chosen, students would be in portables — a notion that has outraged many of them — if or when the quake hits.

But what if the middle plan is picked and the students stay in the old building during construction, and an earthquake happens?

El Cerrito High is considered the least seismically safe school in the district. We believe the district and the community should take a hard look at just what the risks are.

One of these plans would put students in portables for construction reasons.

But perhaps there are other, more ominous reasons to get the children out of the old building anyway — no matter which plan is chosen.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

## State Senate

**Don Perata:** (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

**Tom Torlakson:** (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

## Assembly

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249; 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710; 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

## County Supervisors

**John Gioia:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

**Keith Carson:** (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

## Cities

**El Cerrito:** City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

**Albany:** City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

## Kensington: Fire Protection District

217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

## School board members

**West Contra Costa Unified School District:** 510-620-2246

**Albany Unified School District:** 510-549-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

## SANTA APPRECIATES CHRISTMAS LETTERS WRITTEN THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

E-MAIL LETTERS...  
JUST NOT THE  
SAME, BOSS.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We must 'exit' Iraq

I am concerned that by staying in Iraq we are wasting the lives of America's children, enormous amounts of money we don't have, and America's credibility in the world.

Whether we supported or opposed the war is irrelevant now. What is relevant is whether we should stay or go, and if we stay, whether we should go it alone or work with the United Nations.

Former President George Bush said in his memoirs, "A World Transformed," written more than five years ago (to explain why he didn't go after Saddam Hussein at the end of the Gulf War):

"Trying to eliminate Saddam ... would have incurred incalculable human and political costs. Apprehending him was probably impossible ... We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq ... There was no viable 'exit strategy' we could see, violating another of our principles."

It's clear our leaders don't have an exit strategy. It's time for the people, and their representatives, to assume leadership and work for the immediate withdrawal of American forces in Iraq.

As the U.S. budget deficit for this fiscal year approaches \$550 billion, it is clear we don't have the funds to spend hundreds of billions in Iraq. If we did have the money, we should use it to provide health care and housing and food for the poor in America first.

I'm not an isolationist and I believe America has a role in the world, but if we cannot help our own first, and cannot pay for either without mortgaging the economic health of our future generations, we are acting shortsightedly, with disastrous consequences for this country's future.

I hope we use our considerable intelligence and power to make a change to protect our soldiers, our economy and our moral legitimacy in the world.

The United States should stop all funding for our operations in Iraq and bring our soldiers home. Let them give their lives and their talents only for just and reasonable causes — where the mission and the exit strategy are clear.

Robert Ferraru  
El Cerrito

## Missed opportunities

I am a Gauchio writing about the rebuilding of El Cerrito High School.

When decisions regarding highly expensive matters — such as the rebuilding of a high school, for example — are being made, the people discussing them and making the final choices are generally adults. But adults can sometimes forget the decisions they make affecting students' futures.

When teachers get fired, we lose our guidance. When classes get cut, we lose our opportunities and options. And when schools get knocked down, we lose our theaters, our band rooms, our gyms, our dance studios, our football fields, our rallies, our homes away from home.

If the north plan (originally known as the hybrid plan) is chosen, many El Cerrito assets will get destroyed along with the school. If any of you have been to see a play, dance concert, band performance, or athletic event, you'll know what I'm talking about.

While we have very strong academic departments, I find it is the non-academic disciplines that draw motivated students to El Cerrito High. Among other programs, we have a marching band and one of the best theater programs in the

area.

Our students tend to be very involved. But if there's nothing left in which to get involved, how are we going to learn everything we possibly can in the short four years we're here?

As a student who will be a senior when the construction is predicted to start, the decisions made will have a deep, negative impact on my senior year, and I will reap none of the benefits of the new school.

We're told the first thing to go back up will be the gym, but this will take one year. By the end of that year, I will be gone. And with me will be a year of lost rallies, fading sports departments, missing arts productions, and misplaced grad-nights.

If we lose our non-academics, we lose the heart and soul of El Cerrito High.

Please, let us have a chance to make the most of our lives.

Allison Swislocki  
El Cerrito

Allison is a 10th-grader at El Cerrito High.

## A different viewpoint

In your recent article on large buses in Kensington, some inaccuracies in statements made by AC Transit need correcting.

The claim that people "consistently use the bus" is not supported by AC Transit's own ridership counts, which show that two or fewer passengers use the No. 67 bus in Kensington on 17 of its 28 daily runs.

The assertion that the agency is making the diesel buses "as clean as they can," ignores the fact that nothing can make exposure to diesel fumes healthy. The State Air Resources Board calls diesel bus emissions "the most significant toxic risk faced by the citizens of California."

Even the cleanest diesels emit toxic soot that causes cancer and asthma, and as AC Transit admits, the Kensington buses are "not the cleanest."

Also, the problem with the large buses is not merely "perception." Our narrow, hilly streets cannot safely accommodate the longer and wider vehicles.

With AC Transit cutting service elsewhere, it is wasteful that a 39-passenger diesel bus makes 28 daily runs to serve a handful of people. AC Transit can re-instate the vans and consolidate Kensington runs, maintaining sufficient service with no additional expense.

More than 80 Kensington residents have signed a letter asking AC Transit for a neighborhood-friendly solution that preserves our quality of life.

Diane Egelston  
Cheryl Katz  
Kensington

Egelston and Katz are members of Kensington Neighbors for Better Bus Service.

## Unsatisfactory bill

## HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

MAIL: 4301 Lakeside Drive,  
Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-243-3574

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

We sure wish this Medicare bill hadn't passed. The Republican leaders paying back the insurance companies drug companies for their money for election.

They don't care for the old people who have worked all their lives to have health care and drugs paid by the company they had given their life to; now they lose it.

And the rich ones in Washington who still have all their benefits and perks and they want the poor old, worn out, cancer people, who are trying to take care of their grandchildren, to be on the street.

Just keeping a roof over their heads is more than they can afford.

The chickens will come home to roost one of these days. Just wait and see.

Roosevelt and  
Winnie Watson  
Albany

## Subsidies don't work

"Affordable housing" is a euphemism for subsidized housing, touted as a way to make it possible for the poor to live in an expensive community.

What benefit do the poor confer on the community that their living expenses should be subsidized? Who are these serving poor?

Let's forget the birdseed about police and firefighters. Counting only what they are paid in salary and benefits, they are more than brain surgeons.

If, on the other hand, we think of the poor as burger-flippers and retail clerks, why should taxpayers be forced to pay some operating expenses of MacDonald's and Wal-Mart? If this kind of labor is needed in an expensive community, the employer should pay enough to attract whatever employees are necessary.

Naturally, the added expense would pass to the customers. This is the appropriate way to deal with the situation. Everyone involved gets what he pays for and pays for what he gets. The idea is not politically correct, but it has always worked and subsidies never have.

Taxpayers are already picking up the tab for too many goofy ideas dreamed up by the politicians. How about trying a little common sense for a change?

Raymond Crawford  
Kensington

## Higher repair costs

News articles about the freeway pavement breaking up misse the point. The freeways were built to last 40 years.

The problem is with trucks and buses, which go way over the speed limit. Some buses actually have more weight per axle than trucks. High speeds and the over legal loads damage the roads.

The articles mention that one truck equals 10,000 cars, but do not discuss the need for more enforcement by the CHP. Trucks that bypass the weigh stations and that have too high loads should pay very high penalties. Out-of-state truck drivers should be weighed at the border stations and required to unload their excess loads.

Caltrans has taken pictures of all highways every few feet and knows the damage very well.

Now that the damage has been done, fixing the problem will be far more expensive than the enforcement that should have been used from the beginning on the new highways.

Charles L. Smith  
Berkeley

Smith is a retired Caltrans engineer.



# Library Internet services come at a price

Quote of the week:  
"The night is freezing fast./ Tomorrow comes December./ And the trails of old/ Are with me in the past!"  
—A.E. Housman, 1859-1936



**JULIE WINKELSTEIN**  
At the Library

PUBLIC LIBRARIES are democratic institutions: We all know this. But what does it mean? To me, it says that a library offers equal access to all. Not just free books, but also access to newspapers and magazines, as well as computers. A library is an equalizer, funded equally by public money, and it is democracy at its best. But as this funding becomes more and as the demand for more has evolved into much more than reading material, questions constantly arise about the future of a public library. For instance, is it really appropriate for us to provide access to the Internet for e-mail? Some people would say no, just to not our responsibility to provide free telephone calls or e-mail. After all, they say, we should have access to information about communication.

This is a good point, and it is easy perhaps to slip in this direction when it comes to considering how to spend money on libraries. Also, some libraries have fees for various services, including pay printers, borrowing books from other libraries and even using computers or the Internet.

Most libraries charge fines for overdue materials, sometimes as much as \$1 a day for videos and DVDs. In fact, a few months ago when I visited a library in North Carolina, I picked up a library brochure and was surprised to see the list of fees for various services. Visitors were charged \$10 a day to use the Internet, there was a fee for placing reserves, and residents from outside the county

were charged an annual fee to use the library. It made me think again about our mission as librarians and how that fits in with the need to remain financially stable.

I think any kind of fine or fee weakens our mission. I realize these kinds of decisions are being made in other areas of public welfare all the time, health care and education in particular. And I also realize they may be necessary. When I recently looked at other libraries' budgets, I found that fines were an important source of revenue for many of them.

Libraries are always short of money — it is one of the ironies of our society that libraries are greatly appreciated and constantly used, but they must struggle for the necessary funding. Because of this, they have found ways to provide the services people want, but at a cost. A cost, that is, to both the library user and the democratic ideals of libraries. The inequality of this bothers me, even though these decisions don't touch the core of what we do. It

is still possible to take home hundreds of dollars of library materials by simply getting a free library card — and this is incredible. But I think there should be some places where it doesn't matter, places where you get exactly the same service no matter who you are. And I think that place should be a public library.

**READER REVIEW:** Today's book review is from James, and the book is "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" by Philip K. Dick. This book, which inspired the movie "Blade Runner," is "not only for science fiction fans. It chronicles a couple of eventful days in the life of Rick Deckard, an officer trained to 'retire' the criminals among a race of Androids almost indistinguishable from humans." One word James would use to describe the book is "dark," and he recommends it because "it could be seen as a comment on society, but I like it because it is just really funny."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org) or at the Albany Library.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library will hold a large book sale at the Richmond Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the library's MFW Community Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza.

Proceeds from the book sale will go to the Richmond library. Friends members will get in an hour earlier, at 10 a.m. The book sale will open to the general public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For details, call 510-620-6561.

Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8, led by Alison Seevak at the Albany Library. The next one is Saturday, Dec. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. This will be the final event for Second Saturdays. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

The Albany Library is located at 1247 Marin Ave. and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Details: 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

The El Cerrito Library invites children ages 3 and up and their families to a special family story time entitled "Penguins, Polar Bears and Snow" to be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. for After listening to these winter stories, and joining in some songs and stretches, children will each make a waddling envelope penguin to take home.

Also at El Cerrito: Children in grades 1-6 are invited to read books and earn prizes by participating in the El Cerrito Library's "I Love to Read" Club this winter. To participate in the club, which is sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library, each child needs to pick up a reading record at the library, and

use it to list 10 books he or she reads, through Feb. 28. The reading records are then to be returned to the library any time during the month of February for display on the library's bulletin board. Each finisher will receive a paperback book and two Hershey's Kisses.

You can learn the basics of the Internet at the El Cerrito Library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up. The El Cerrito Library is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For details, call 510-526-7512.

The Young People's Chamber Orchestra, an all-string orchestra of young musicians from the East Bay under the direction of Rem Djemiliev presents a concert of classical music Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. at the Kensington Library.

Also at Kensington: Family Storytimes for all ages meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

Also at Pinole: The library features Tagalog Picture Book Time meets Saturday from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and 20.

## ALBANY PTA NEWS

### Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the daily news and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda at [topm@earthlink.net](mailto:topm@earthlink.net).  
16, Instrumental Winter Concert, 7 p.m.  
AMS Little Theater.  
17, College Financial Aid Application Workshop, 7 p.m.  
18, Choral Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.  
19, Instrumental Winter Concert, 7 p.m., AMS Gym.

### Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily news and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Frances at [santagofrances@hotmail.com](mailto:santagofrances@hotmail.com).  
15, Choral Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m.  
16, Instrumental Winter Concert, 7 p.m., AMS Gym.

Scrip Orders: Call Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: [dorothybmc@yahoo.com](mailto:dorothybmc@yahoo.com).

### Cornell Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at [gradyayer@aol.com](mailto:gradyayer@aol.com).  
Scrip Orders: Call Mark Priven 510-526-4902 or e-mail: [privenwest@pacbell.net](mailto:privenwest@pacbell.net).

### Marin Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Kym Sterner at [kymsterner@earthlink.net](mailto:kymsterner@earthlink.net).  
Scrip Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail: [h.class@att.net](mailto:h.class@att.net).  
Paper scrip for sale in the office M, W & F at 8:30 a.m. and M & F at 9:30 a.m.  
Reminder: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

## A lot of singing

RAY'S CHRISTMAS Tree Lot on Solano Avenue in Albany was the backdrop on Dec. 7 as Pete Olson played Christmas music.

## CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

**DRIVE:** The Leadership community service committee thanks to all who do to the Thanksgiving holiday food drive. More than 1,500 were collected and donated to Santa Costa Food Bank. A special thanks to Paula Gockers' AP Computer class for donating the most

**THE BEAR FACTS:** Sophomore Leadership is selling Santa Bear Grams (Teddy Bear Gram) through the month of December for \$2.50 each. Buyers can pick any bear, which will be put in a goodie bag (no worries about wrapping), and delivered to second block classes on Thursday, Dec. 18. Sales started this week and will end on Dec. 17.

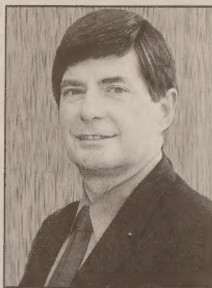
**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE:** PTSA President Michele Jawad reminds everyone that the filing deadline for the Second District PTSA High School Senior Scholarship applications is Jan. 15, 2004. Interested applicants must be members of the El Cerrito High

PTSA and have a G.P.A. of 2.0 at the start of their senior year. Applicants wishing more information and an application can contact Jawad at [EcM-Jawad@aol.com](mailto:EcM-Jawad@aol.com). The amount awarded will be \$500.

— from the ECHS e-mail tree

## LIVING TRUSTS

**FREE** Initial Consultation  
No Charge for amendments  
Can show you how to save taxes & probate fees  
**Howard D. Neal**  
Attorney at Law  
Neal & Associates  
200 Antioch St. #202  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(510) 339-0233  
[hneal@nealaw.com](mailto:hneal@nealaw.com)



**terrestra**

"This is the store I've been waiting for."  
"Where on earth do you find so many beautiful things?"  
"Can I move in here?"

exceptional gifts for every occasion and functional accessories for the home  
walnut square, vine & shattuck, berkeley • 510.540.5504

## PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

**LaSalle Cigars**  
HABANA ROOM

Be Among Family for the Holidays

6218 LASALLE AVENUE  
MONTCLAIR VILLAGE  
510-339-8788  
[WWW.LASALLECIGARS.COM](http://WWW.LASALLECIGARS.COM)

**ROCKRIDGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

5610 Broadway  
Oakland  
510.625.7021

**THE BERKSHIRE**  
AN ARV ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

*Come Celebrate Life With Us!*

We offer a comfortable and accommodating Retirement and Assisted Lifestyle, a gracious home, and a lively community where friends and family come together to celebrate life!

For more information, or to schedule a tour, please call us today!  
**2235 Sacramento Street, Berkeley, CA 94702-1966**  
**(510) 841-4844**  
License # to be determined  
Visit us on the internet at [www.arvi.com](http://www.arvi.com)

**Bay Area Laser Surgery Center**

**ARMEN SEREBRAKIAN, M.D.**  
Board Certified Head/Neck Reconstructive Surgeon  
20 Years Experience

**Specializing In:**  
• Laser Eyelid Surgery  
• Facial & Neck Liposuction  
• OBAGI Skin Restoration System  
• Chin/Cheek Implants  
• Photofacial Rejuvenation  
• Laser Treatment for Rosacea/Sun Damage/Fine Lines  
• Great Results Without Downtime

**Also:**  
• Rhinoplasty  
• Laser Eyelid & Brow Lift  
• "New" Laser Hair Removal System  
• 10% Student Discount  
• Snoring  
• Laser & Somnoplasty  
• Laser Scar & Mole Removal

**TATTOO REMOVAL DAY**  
January 27th

**FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE**  
\$10.00

**COMPLIMENTARY COLLAGEN TEST**  
\$60 VALUE

• Microdermabrasion (Physician's Strength)  
• Botox  
• Brava  
• (Non-surgical breast enhancement)  
• Collagen  
• UltraSoft/SoftForm Permanent & Removable Implants

**COMPLIMENTARY WINE & CHEESE SEMINAR**  
January 22nd, 2004 at 5:30 pm • 1599 Tara Hills Dr. • Pinole  
To attend, please RSVP to (510) 724-8282  
Drawing held for FREE Microdermabrasion Treatment (\$125 value)  
Guests will receive a gift certificate • Gift Certificates Available

**BOTOX**  
3 Facial Areas  
\$375  
(Regular \$438)

**MICRODERMABRASION**  
Take \$15 Off Your Treatment  
(Regular \$125)

**FOTOFACIAL REJUVENATION**  
\$400  
1 Full Face Treatment  
Reg. \$550  
One coupon per patient.

**New!**  
LASER HAIR REMOVAL SYSTEM  
\$50 Off your first treatment!

**MERRELL**  
Performance Footwear™

This coupon is good for **\$10 OFF**

**Jungle Moc**  
Men's or Women's  
• Brown • Taupe • Midnight • Black

**Good Feet**  
YOUR ARCH SUPPORT STORE

4184-C Piedmont Avenue • Oakland, CA • (510) 655-8520  
210-A Broadway • Millbrae, CA • (650) 652-3900  
106 So. Park Victoria Drive • Milpitas, CA • (408) 586-9575



# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received **Thursdays** one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to [afields@cctimes.com](mailto:afields@cctimes.com) or fax to 510-339-4066.

## Children

■ **The Berkeley Youth Orchestra** presents its Winter Concert at 11 a.m. Dec. 13, at the Laney College Theatre, 900 Fallon St. in Oakland. Jay Lehmann conducts "Peter and the Wolf," narrated by John Grapponi and "Jupiter from the Planets." Tickets: \$5 at the door. For more information, call 510-663-3296 or visit the Web site at [www.byoeb.org](http://www.byoeb.org).

■ **UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science** holds a science exhibit "Jelly Belly presents Candy Unwrapped," through Jan. 4. LHS is the public science and math center of UC Berkeley. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Location: Centennial Drive below Grizzly Peak. For general information, call 510-842-5132 or visit the Web site at [www.lawrencehallscience.org](http://www.lawrencehallscience.org).

■ **Toddler Times** with stories, bounces and stretches, are coming back to the Albany Library, the new series on Mondays through Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. The library is at 1247 Marin Ave. Call for sign-ups: 526-3720, Ext. 17.

■ **Children's Social Skills and Manners** workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202. n Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library**. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ **El Cerrito** offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. 215-4371.

■ **The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821. Classes

## Community

■ **The historic Berkeley City Club**, 2315 Durant Ave., will be adorned with holiday decorations for its first High Tea

from noon to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 13. The executive chef will prepare an abundant of sweets and savories. Open to the public, \$24.95 adults, \$14-95 children under 12. Call for reservations and information, at 510-848-7800

■ **East Bay Sanctuary Covenant** presents its "Holiday Crafts Fair," from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14, at the First Congregational Church, at Channing and Dana, Berkeley. Many items under \$10, beautiful purses, clothing, weavings holiday decor, jewelry and more. All proceeds benefit local work with refugees. The event also includes Singers for Peace and readings and book signings by local authors Michael Smith and Melody Ermachild Chavis. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-524-7989.

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets quarterly from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. For more information, call Gail Whitehouse at 408-425-5629.

■ The sixth annual **Senior Winter Ball** takes place from 7 to 1 p.m. Dec. 13, at the Richmond Convention Center, 26th and Nevin Ave. An evening of Nostalgia and dancing to the Walt Tolleson "One More Time Big Swing Band." Tickets: \$10. Table for 10 people: \$100. Tickets available at Recreation and Parks Department, 3230 Macdonald Ave. Richmond. For more information, call 510-620-6793.

■ **The El Cerrito Historical Society** will exhibit items from its collections in the El Cerrito Library's exhibit case through the month of December. Items include pottery from TopCo, as well as old milk bottles from the city's early dairies. Location: 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call branch librarian Laura Martinego El Cerrito Library at 510-526-7512 or [lmartinego@cclib.org](mailto:lmartinego@cclib.org).

■ **The Berkeley Farmers' Market** 12th annual Holiday Crafts Fair (An Ecology Center Benefit), takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday Dec. 13, and 20 at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park (next to the Berkeley Farmers' Market). Local craftspeople selling a variety of hand-crafted gifts jewelry, fabric arts, leather, ceramics, hats, dolls, fine art, photos, soaps and herbal portions, and others. Live music. One block from downtown Berkeley BART, parking, wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 510-548-3333 or visit the Web site at [www.ecologycenter.org](http://www.ecologycenter.org).

■ **The Cal Sailing Club** offers free sailboat rides on the Bay, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday Dec. 14, at the Cal Sailing Club, located at the Berkeley Marina, near the bottom of University Avenue next to Adventure Playground. Bring warm, waterproof clothes — you may get wet. For more information, call the club at 510-287-5905, or visit the Web site at [www.cal-sailing.org](http://www.cal-sailing.org).

■ **The Judah L. Magnes Museum**, 2911 Russell St., presents the exhibit "Brought to Light: The Storied Collections of the Judah L. Magnes Museum" through April 26. Hours: Open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Jewish and federal holidays. Admission is free. For more information, call 510-549-6950.

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail [bnc@netvalue.net](mailto:bnc@netvalue.net).

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ **TOPS** (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ **Turning Point at the YWCA**, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 844-8736.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum**, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 842-0808.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Com-

munity Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 — the child-care room — parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice: Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

■ **Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA. 94701.

■ **"Work Buddies"**, volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

## Exhibits

■ The exhibit **Early Women of Berkeley** (1878-1953) and their organizations runs through March 27. The exhibit, curated by the College Women's Club/Berkeley Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Berkeley Historical Society, celebrates how women shaped Berkeley's history, working alone and through their clubs. A women's history lecture series is also planned. At the Berkeley History Center, 1931 Center St. Details: 848-0181. Admission free.

## Film/dance/stage

■ **Shotgun Players** opens its play "The Death of Meyerhold." Dec. 11 through Dec. 28 at the Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., at Berrymann, Berkeley. The play is based on the life of the great Russian theater director, Vsevolod Meyerhold, a politically and artistically provocative artist who made his indelible mark during the early decades of Revolutionary Russia. Tickets: \$8 adults and \$12 students, seniors and Theater Bay Area members; \$10 for all Thursday

See CALENDAR, Page A7

## Send a Kid to Camp



• BAY AREA CALL

**(510) 540-5824**

Donate a car (running or not) to Chabad of the East Bay and do a good deed.

**WE DO THE PAPERWORK  
WE TOW FOR FREE**



**Renew, Repair, Invigorate...  
Your Home**

Home Improvements Without Breaking  
Your Heart or Budget

**TMSL (510) 891-0200**

General Contractors Since 1969 • 241 10th St., Oakland Lic.#820703

## HOLIDAY INVENTORY CLOCK SALE

**SATURDAY ONLY!  
DECEMBER 13**



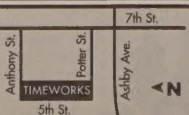
**Unbelievable  
Savings!**

Great Gift Ideas

**25-50%  
OFF**  
Wholesale Prices

**OVERSTOCK • DISCONTINUED  
RECONDITIONED RETURNS**

as sold in some of the finest retail stores nationwide



**TIMEWORKS, INC.**  
808 Anthony Street  
(take Ashby exit)  
Berkeley, CA

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13  
8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

[www.timeworksclocks.com/warehousesale](http://www.timeworksclocks.com/warehousesale)



## Expressly fun

**THE FRIENDS** of the Albany Library present "Cotton Candy Express" performing a holiday program of fun and song every evening, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. The library is at 1247 Marin Ave.

## Give a timeless gift and get the gift of time

The holidays can be a hectic time. At Red Wagon we make holiday shopping fun and easy. Shopping appointment after work. Free wrapping. You shop and we'll ship or we'll shop and ship for you. Festive, special occasion attire for kids and so much more. Personalized service, unique selection.

Just in time for the holidays.

Red Wagon.

Classic children's clothing, shoes, accessories, toys and gifts. Timeless service.

2926 Domingo Avenue, across from the Claremont in Berkeley. Free validated parking off Ashby Avenue (510) 848-3434

**CHRISTENSEN HELLER GALLERY**

**RETIREMENT  
~SEEKING BUYER-  
SALE!**

**THIS ENTIRE STORE PRICES  
FOR IMMEDIATE SALE!**

Every Diamond, Gemstone, Bridal Set,  
14 & 18Kt Gold, Platinum Jewelry Plus Much, Much More  
**MUST BE CLEARED!**

**SAVINGS  
UP TO**

**60%  
OFF!**

**CHRISTENSEN HELLER GALLERY**

5831 College Avenue  
Oakland  
**510-655-5952**

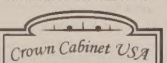
Open Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm  
Friday evening until 8pm  
Sunday Noon - 5pm  
Cash - Visa - MasterCard & American Express Accepted

DISCOUNTS TAKEN OFF THE REGULAR PRICES

## CROWN CABINET USA, INC.



MAPLE, OAK, CHERRY  
SOLID WOOD KITCHEN CABINETS  
AND GRANITE COUNTERTOPS  
WHOLESALE TO CONTRACTORS  
AND PUBLIC  
FREE KITCHEN DESIGN  
FULL-SERVICE INSTALLATION  
WARRANTY ON ALL WORK



15010 Wicks Blvd, San Leandro  
Showroom hours: M-F: 8-5, Sat: 9-5 (510) 352-8877

## Are you Wasting Heat?

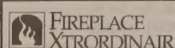


Why heat the whole house when you spend most of your day in one space? Energy efficient area heaters may be your answer. Check out the New Award Winning Bed and Breakfast Gas Fireplace.

**Beat the Gas Crisis!**



915 Ashby Ave @ Hwy 80  
Berkeley, California  
**510.843.2000**



Quality Since 1974 • [www.tubmakers.com](http://www.tubmakers.com)



# Calendar

FROM PAGE A6

...ommunities, \$20 for the opening...  
The production will continue Jan...  
through 25 at the Julia Morgan The...  
2640 College Ave. For more inform...  
call 510-7048210.

...nded Bay Puppet Theatre presents...  
...of "Uncle Teddy's Christmas...  
... 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 13, at...  
... 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 13, at...  
... Costa Civic Theatre, 951

...ome Ave., El Cerrito. Family holiday...  
... for all ages. Richard Bay Puppet...  
... brings to life delightful stories...  
... through the magic of puppets and sto...  
... General admission: \$10. Call...  
... 510-4654 for more information.

...nary Ballet Theater presents the...  
... "The Nutcracker," at the Julia Morgan Cen...  
... Arts, 2640 College Ave., in...  
... Performance times are: 7 p.m...  
... 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 13, 2...  
... Dec. 14. Admission: \$13 - \$18. For...  
... more information, call 510-...  
...

...nary Theatre Company presents...  
... "The Nutcracker," through Dec. 21...  
... through happy security guard...  
... -faced boss, a feisty rookie...  
... and her swagging vet...  
... interweave their lives. Show...  
... 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Sat...  
... 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays...  
... show at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov...  
... show Thursday, Nov. 27. Admis...  
... \$28. Opening nights \$40;...  
... performances Wednesdays...  
... Sundays \$34. Fridays and...  
... \$36. For tickets, call 510-843-...  
... or visit [www.auroretheatre.org](http://www.auroretheatre.org)

...easy international folk...  
... for all ages at the Albany...  
... 321 Kains Ave. No experience...  
... prepared for a good time. Admis...  
... \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-...

...Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. -...  
... no partners necessary for line...  
... from Rumania, Bulgaria...  
... Turkey, Near East and other...  
... each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m...  
... drop in from 9 p.m. to 9 p.m...  
... No experience necessary -...  
... welcome. Albany YMCA, 901...  
... Ave. \$4; call 525-1542.

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8

...Folkdancing takes place the...  
... Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz...  
... and Dance Community Center...  
... San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise...  
... class. Bring your feet and a...  
... No experience necessary...  
... opportunity for families to dance...  
... together. Drop in for good fun...  
... All ages welcome. Drop-in...  
... registration needed. Adults \$3...  
... \$2. Details: 632-3713.

...ing Dance Classes! Learn East...  
... and Lindy Hop with...  
... and Persephone of Shagtime...  
... instruction, on Mondays at the...  
... 2558 Telegraph Ave. Be...  
... Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to...  
... East Coast Swing from 7 p.m...  
... and beginning Lindy Hop 8



**DMITRI MATHENY** and his group celebrate Christmas with a concert called WinterFest at the Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St. in Berkeley, on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m. Joined by vocalist Kim Nalley, guitarist Brad Bueth, bassist Ruth Davies, and drummer Deszon Claiborne, flugelhornist Matheny welcomes the Holiday Season with swing, story, and song. This is a show for young and old, alike. General admission is \$18; students and seniors, \$15; Jazzschool students, \$12. Seating is limited and on a first-come first-served basis. Reservations: 510-845-5373.

p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marango at 525-7858.

## Health

■ **Charcot Marie Tooth** support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Details: 524-3506.

■ **YWCA Health and Community Education**; drop in classes in **dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts** and more. University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

## Learning

■ The Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave, a non-profit private social club, offers a **weekly yoga class** for seniors from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday's. The class taught by Rosie Linsky, who at age 72, has practiced yoga for over 40 years. Open to non-members for \$8 a class. For more information, call Karen Ray, at 848-7800.

■ **Berkeley Adult School** offers **ceramics classes** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on

Tuesdays at the St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave. Classes are free, materials and firing charges are not. Lunch is offered at a minimal charge. For more information, call Diana Bohm at 525-5497.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** in Berkeley offers classes in ex-

ercise, hand-built ceramics, copper enameling, wood working, weaving, creative writing and tap dancing. There are speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations once a month. Classes are on-going. New members and seniors over 50 are always welcome. Lunch and friendly conversation are offered at a minimal charge. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Call 845-6830 for time and schedules.

■ **Beginning Internet Workshops** take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse skills, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., offers free, ongoing **chess instruction** Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The lessons range from fundamental to advanced topics, and also casual play. This program is led by David Pruess, who holds the Senior Master title and is one of the top chess players and teachers in California. All levels are welcome and chess sets are provided. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ **Folkdance classes**, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library.) Simple, clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. Details: Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

■ **Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554.

■ **Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**,

2640 College Ave., offers family-friendly program classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into everyday lives. Details: 845-8542 or [www.juliamorgan.org](http://www.juliamorgan.org).

■ **The Berkeley Adult School** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be used to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and introductory and advanced computer classes. Details: 644-6130.

■ **Interview Clinics** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time.

■ **Berkeley Community Media**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in **video production and editing** to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Mar-

tin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

■ **Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers **dance classes** ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarjali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054. n Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. 845-6830.

■ **Dance and fitness classes** open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

■ **Let's Swing and Jitterbug**; 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

See CALENDAR, Page A8

## WILLS & TRUSTS PROBATE

510521-3361

LAW OFFICES OF  
**HEATHER TREMAIN**  
[www.tremainlaw.com](http://www.tremainlaw.com)



"Helping you control what happens to the things you care about."

## FONTINA ITALIAN RESTAURANT

SERVING PASTA DISHES, CHICKEN, SEAFOOD, VEAL & VEGETARIAN

Celebrating Our 10 Year Anniversary

GENEROUS PORTIONS, MODEST PRICES

Open for Lunch & Dinner 11:30 - 9:30

Dine in Classic European Style Warm Brick Walls  
- Friendly Environment

1730 Shattuck Avenue  
At Virginia Near  
Berkeley UC Campus

510.649.8090

# Holiday dollars

from:  
**MAYTAG**

Receive up to a  
**\$150 DISCOVER Gift Card\***

**\$50 PG&E REBATE**

#1 Long Life Dependability Fewer Repairs Consumer Satisfaction

**\$30 DISCOVER Gift Card\***

### Maytag Atlantis™ Washer

Outstanding Cleaning, Keeps Whites White

- Oversize Capacity Plus
- Heavy-Duty Lifetime Tub™ Model MAV6451A

\* Maytag washers compared to any other major brand, based on consumer ownership survey.

### Maytag Neptune™ Washer

The Washer that Can Pay for Itself.

- Uses 65% less energy
- Uses 40% less water
- Clothes look newer longer
- 1,000 rpm spin speed dries clothes nearly 25% faster

\*Based on D.O.E. test method compared to a competitive conventional washer, 10 loads per week, average water and sewage savings. Savings will vary depending on utility rates, model replaced and usage.

**\$150 IN UTILITY REBATES**

**\$150 DISCOVER Gift Card\***

Plus save up to \$150\* every year in energy & water

Model MAH7500A

### Maytag Refrigerator

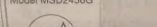
Keep Food Fresh!

- Dual Cool™ Freshness Design
- Gallon Plus Door Storage
- Elevator Shelf™

**\$100 DISCOVER Gift Card\***



Model MSD2456G



Model MTB9156G

### Maytag JetClean™ II Dishwasher

Tallest Tub with Largest Usable Capacity.\*

- ToughScrub™ Option
- Auto Clean Cycle
- Sanitize Option

\*As measured by usable rack volume based on standard-sized dishwashers

**\$30 DISCOVER Gift Card\***

Model MDB6600A

### Maytag Gemini™ Ranges

Two Separate Ovens One Complete Meal™

- Cooks Two Different Foods At The Same Time.

**\$100 DISCOVER Gift Card\***

Model MER6772B & MGR6772B

**Limited Time Offer**

"Our mission is to be and remain the best quality shopping and service experience for the customers we serve, while being a first-class, community-minded neighbor for all."



**GALVIN APPLIANCE**  
Your Neighborhood Expert  
619 San Pablo Ave • Albany • 510-527-2244



\*G.A.C. See store for details!  
\*Based on D.O.E. test method compared against a leading competitive top-load washer. 10 loads per week, average water and sewage rates and 2000 electrical energy rates & dryer savings. Savings will vary depending on utility rates, model replaced and usage. Must be Inghamston County PUD customer. Call PUD for details.

**Four Ways Corner Your Savings**

Bryant's Plus 90I furnace uses the least electricity and gas. Buy a Plus 90I before December 15 and receive a \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond. Eligible for PG&E \$200.00 rebate.

**HARRY CLARK PLUMBING & HEATING INC.**  
LIC. # 792463  
510 444-1776

**bryant**  
Heating & Cooling Systems  
Since 1904  
PG&E rebate subject to conditions  
Save Electric



## Calen ar

FROM PAGE A7

## Lecture/workshop

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don. 510-525-3565 or [www.berkeleycameraclub.org](http://www.berkeleycameraclub.org).

■ **Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung** classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. All ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

■ **Learn computer applications for the "working" world** using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or [www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop](http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop).

■ **Emotions Anonymous:** 12-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

## Meetings/lectures

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** meet on Tuesday mornings at 2727 College Ave. Sharon Starkfield will speak about her ministry to four local nursing homes at 11 a.m. Dec. 16. Visitors are always welcome. 510-845-6830.

■ **Albany Library**, 1247 Marin Ave., presents poetry events: First Thursdays include Open Mike and Featured Poet sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Second Wednesdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops, for all ages. Second Saturdays are drop-in Poetry Writing Workshops for grades 4-8. All three events

are free and on-going. Light refreshments will be served. Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

■ **Storytelling for Adults**, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

■ **The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2080 Kittredge St. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability who requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

## Miscellany

■ **A Scholastic Book Fair** hosted by "Literacy & Beyond!" Family Literacy Night event at the downtown Berkeley YMCA from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 12, at 2001 Allston Way. Free. Wear your favorite hat while you shop for holiday gifts. Enjoy live music. Warm up with hot cocoa and apple cider. Create a hat and you might win a prize. Theater Drill Team performance 7 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Veronica Corpuz or Brenda Wong at 510-665-3271 or [bwong@baymea.org](mailto:bwong@baymea.org).

■ **St. John's Prime Timers** in Berkeley offers classes at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Classes include exercises, ceramics, copper enameling, wood-working, weaving, creative writing, and tap dancing (Thursdays). New members are always welcome, especially seniors' over 50. 845-6830.

■ **The Center for Independent Living** announces its newly created **Asian Outreach Program** to assist Asian individuals with disabilities, particularly new immigrants. Providing services and advocacy in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and

English, program staff are culturally sensitive and knowledgeable of community and government services available to individuals with disabilities. For more information, call CIL at 510-763-9999.

■ **Friendship Circle**, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speakers, more. Maria, 848-0237 ext. 115.

■ **Improve your speaking skills** by attending **Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster** meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

■ **The Berkeley Camera Club** meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

■ **Disabled American Veterans** Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

■ **The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters** Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillel Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. 869-2547 or 643-7645.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event

you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

■ **Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters.** The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. 549-9671.

■ **Toastmasters:** Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. 883-6708

■ **The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. 204-4503.

■ **Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillel Ave. Details: 704-1822.

■ **"Voices of Healing"** is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. 528-1235

■ **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

■ **Higher Alignment;** 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 415-461-5337; \$20.

■ **Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1-2:30 p.m.; 204-4503.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous**, a free 12-step program for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). 273-9292.

■ **TOPS;** 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take

Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

■ **Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center** and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly **stroke support group**. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

## Music

■ **Chamber Music Sundae** presents San Francisco Symphony musicians and friends at 3:15 p.m. Dec. 14, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. The concert includes a Dvorak Quintet, a Mendelssohn Quartet and the Golubev Violin Sonata. Tickets at the door: \$18. \$14 students seniors, \$7 youth under 18. 415-584-5946.

■ **Crowden Music Center** continues its "Sundays at Four" series with "Beethoven's Birthday Bash," on Dec. 14. Each concert is 60 to 75 minutes in length. General admission is \$12, 18 and under free. 510-559-6910.

■ **Jazzschool**, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, presents the following: Fridays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free jam sessions. 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Dec. 8-12, Jazzschool Student Recitals. Free. 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 13, Jazzschool Student Recitals. Free. 8 p.m. Dec. 13, Dmitri Matheny Winterfest. \$18/15/12; 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 14, Jazzschool Student Recitals. Free. 4:30 p.m. Dec. 14, Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz All-Stars. Salsa dance party; \$18; 8 p.m. Dec. 19,

Anton Schwartz CD Reception. For reservations call 510-845-3271 or [swing@jazzschool.com](mailto:swing@jazzschool.com). Site at [www.jazzschool.com](http://www.jazzschool.com).

■ **Jazz Mine** is sponsoring a p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12, at Il Porcino Restaurant, Solano Ave., in Albany. Details: 510-534-1111.

■ **The Kensington Senior Activity Center** continues its 2003-04 holiday concert at 8 p.m. on Northminster Presbyterian Church, Ashbury Ave. El Comodoro is Timothy Smith, the Music Department at California State University, San Francisco, forms regularly as a professional ensemble. The concert includes the music of Richard Rodgers, the cello, and the violin. Suggested donation: \$10. Children free. 510-534-1111.

■ **Bella Musica Chorus** continues its winter concert at 8 p.m. on Arlington Community Church, 2727 College Ave., Kensington Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., on Dec. 14, at Corpus Christi Church, 2001 Dwight Way. The concert includes the music of Monty Python, the cello, "Les Chansons de St. Cecilia," by Benjamin Britten. Admission is by donation. \$10 and \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call 510-534-1111 or 510-534-1111.

HUGE INVENTORY OF GRANITE SLABS  
LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF GRANITE SLAB  
BELOW CONTRACTOR & DESIGNER  
CENTER PRICING  
**BEST** Marble & Granite  
Kitchen Factory Outlet  
[www.bestmarble.com](http://www.bestmarble.com)  
2446 Taiguan St., San Leandro  
(Just off Hwy. 880) - take Marina Blvd. S. on  
Phoner: 510-614-0160 Fax: 510-614-0161

**AREA RUGS**  
Prices And Selection  
You Won't Resist  
Take Yours Home Today  
Largest Selection in East Bay

SAVE up to **30-50% OFF**  
Our Entire Wool Rug Inventory  
for a Limited Time Only  
Give your decor a colorful lift and distinctive accent  
area rugs. Area rugs provide a spectacular focal point  
any decor! We have the shapes, sizes and styles you  
want! Visit our showroom soon.

**DICK'S CARPET ONE**  
Open 7 Days • Mon.-Sat. 9-6 • Sunday 12-5  
OAKLAND • 510-464-1111  
36 Hegenberger Ct.  
Bamboo Flooring  
**\$3.94** sq.ft.  
WOOL and NYLON BERBERS from **\$ .99** sq.ft.

**Divorce • Custody • Support**  
Alameda's Largest law firm specializing in divorce and family law  
Law Offices of **Susan L. Jeffries & Associates**  
Member of the Chamber of Commerce  
Member of the Rotary  
Susan L. Jeffries, J.D., LL.M. (tax)  
Masters Degree in Tax Law  
22 Years Experience  
Now Available  
Divorce Consulting Services  
**865-6664**  
2121 Central Ave., Alameda  
[www.DivorCentral.com](http://www.DivorCentral.com)

**H' LORDSHIPS Catering Department**  
Book Now for January and Receive 10% Off Per Person Pricing  
Our professional staff will be glad to assist you in planning your event. We can accommodate your party of 30-500.  
We are open 7 days a week.  
Catering Office (510) 843-8144  
on Berkeley Marina • 199 Seawall Drive

**PET CLUB FOOD AND SUPPLIES**  
GUARANTEED WAREHOUSE PRICES on Dog & Cat Food, lower than Wholesale Clubs "C" or "F". Supermarkets, or Wholesale Food Cos. (No Membership Fees)  
Dog Wash - \$8 includes: Shampoo & Drying  
A GREAT DEAL!

<b>NUTRO MAX ADULT DRY DOG FOOD</b> 35 Lbs. Naturally preserved with Vitamin E Regular Max Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$15.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>NUTRO MAX DRY CAT FOOD</b> 20 Lb Bag Regular Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$14.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>IAMS DRY DOG FOOD</b> 40 Lb Bag Lamb Meal & Rice • Large Breed Adult Weight Control Chicken • W.C. Lamb & Rice Weight Control Large Breed (Active Maturity Bag & kg. feed \$23.99) Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$21.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>SCIENCE DIET DRY DOG FOOD</b> 40 Lb Bag Light • Senior Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$21.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16
<b>FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD</b> 5.5 Oz. All Varieties Limit 2 Cases Per Family <b>4/\$1</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>KAL KAN CHOICE CUTS/PEDIGREE CANNED DOG FOOD</b> 22 Oz. All Varieties Limit 1 Case Per Family <b>69¢</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>TIDY CAT SCOOP SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER</b> 20 Lb. Jug Multiple Cat Formula Regular Limit 2 Jugs Per Family <b>\$4.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16	<b>KAL KAN WHISKAS w/Savory Nuggets DRY CAT FOOD</b> 17.6 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$6.99</b> Effective 12/10/12/16

<b>PRETTY BOY WILD BIRD SEED</b> 20 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>GOURMET CLASSICS &amp; MAX KITTEN CANNED CAT FOOD</b> 3 Oz. All Varieties <b>3/\$1</b>	<b>EVERCLEAN PREMIUM CAT LITTER</b> 25 Lb. Box ES Unscented • LT • ES Scented • AB <b>\$8.99</b>
<b>SCIENCE DIET FELINE MAINTENANCE DRY CAT FOOD</b> Limit 2 Bags Light • Maintenance • Sensitive Stomach Senior • Hairball 3.5-4 Lb. Bag <b>\$5.49</b>	<b>LITTER SELECT FLAT CRYSTALS CAT LITTER</b> 7.6 Liter Limit 2 Bags <b>\$6.99</b>	<b>SCIENCE DIET NATURE'S BEST DRY DOG FOOD</b> Limit 2 Bags Per Family All Natural w/Vitamins & Minerals Beef • Chicken • 35 Lb Bag <b>Buy One And Get One FREE</b>
<b>WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER</b> All Natural • Biodegradable Flushable • Less Dust 17 Lb Bag <b>\$12.99</b>	<b>NUTRA NUGGETS LAMB MEAL &amp; RICE DRY DOG FOOD</b> 40 Lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags <b>\$14.99</b>	<b>NATURE'S RECIPE CANNED DOG FOOD</b> 13 Oz. Selected Varieties Except Limit 1 Case (Venison & Rice - \$1.09/Rabbit & Rice - \$1.25) <b>65¢</b>
<b>GRAVY TRAIN DRY DOG FOOD</b> 35 Lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags <b>\$8.99</b>	<b>PESTELL CLUMPING CAT LITTER</b> 40 Lb. Bag <b>\$6.99</b>	<b>BREEDER'S CHOICE AVO-DRY DRY DOG FOOD</b> Limit 2 Bags Per Family Avo-Lamb • 35 Lb Bag Avo-Lamb & Rice • 40 Lb Bag <b>\$21.99</b> <b>\$22.99</b>

**DOGLOO PRODUCTS 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES**  
• Dogloos • Furrari Carriers  
• Ruff Haus • Indigo Dog House  
All Varieties & Sizes. Also Pads & Doors

**FLEXI RETRACTABLE COLL LEASHES 20% OFF**  
All Varieties. All Sizes. OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

**BOODA DOME SLEEPRIGHT SELF-WARMING THERMAL CAT CUSHION**  
Covered Litter Box ..... **\$12.99**  
Clean Step ..... **\$17.99**

**POUNCE CAT TREATS 20% OFF**  
2-3 Oz. All Varieties  
Limit 3 Total with coupon  
Limit One Coupon Per Family  
Effective 12/10/12/16  
Price Valid Only With Coupon

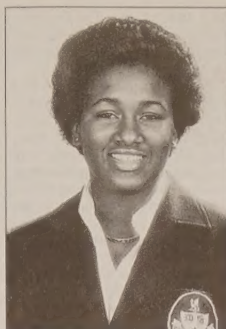
**KAL KAN WHISKAS CANNED CAT FOOD 4/89¢**  
5.5 Oz. All Varieties  
Limit 12 Cans With Coupon  
Limit One Coupon Per Family  
Price Valid Only With Coupon  
Effective 12/10/12/16



Moore

IN PAGE A1

But Westlake expected to attend only the...  
Moore graduated from Yale...  
She was hired as an attorney...  
She moved to El Cerrito from...  
She ran again and won...  
She is well-liked by her fellow...  
She has been a housing advocate...  
She just starting out, but...  
and that's half the bat-



LETITIA MOORE in the Westlake Girls School yearbook.

...le," said El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce director Sewall Glin-ternick. "She listens to people."  
The best part of serving on the council? It teaches her new things. "It is incredibly fascinat- ing," she said.  
The worst part? There's little time to do much of anything else. When she sent an e-mail to her friends outside El Cerrito telling them about being appointed mayor, she received an e-mail back: "Congratulations — does that mean we'll see even less of you?"  
"As exciting and wonderful as

it is, because of people I get to meet and the opportunities it provides for both growth, learning and service ... despite those opportunities, it still comes at a cost," she said.  
Moore speaks quickly, directly and articulately, at length, about any subject, occasionally laugh- ing and joking. Her home in the city's flatlands, which she has shared with her 91-year-old grandmother since moving there, includes photos of friends, stacks of compact discs and a rocking chair.  
During council meetings, she said she tries to listen and speak

only when necessary, though she sometimes speaks passionately about subjects.  
"Once she has formulated an opinion, she's very clear in articulating it and pretty insistent," said Mayor Pro Tem Sandi Potter. "Letitia brings this clarity to both political issues and moral issues."  
Moore said the biggest chal- lenges facing the city are the lack of money, including the council's repeal of a property transfer tax and the potential loss of the city's utility user's tax which will be on the ballot next November.  
The potential consequences

of the lost revenue could deal a blow to her goal of making the city stronger and better, she said.  
"Hiring freezes, laying off peo- ple, cutting off services is not growth, prosperity or develop- ment," she said. "It's taking a step backward, so I hope we don't get there."  
However, the city's challenges,

or the challenges of being on the council, are not deterring her from public service. She has no plans to run for higher office but will run for reelection to the council next November.  
Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

## Pamper yourself

Give your loved one or yourself a gift of caring:

**EUROPEAN FACIAL**  
Or  
**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**  
Only \$50 each  
Gift Certificates available

Also available:  
Skin Care & Body Treatments:  
Ultrasound facials, enzyme facial, multi-vitamin power firm facial, back facial, essential oil body wrap, eye treatment.  
Massage (non-sexual): Shiatsu, pre-natal, aromatherapy, neck & shoulder and foot reflexology.

**10% discount on all Dermalogica products**  
Expires: 12/31/03



**Poppy Johal**

Skin Care and Bodywork  
215 Plaza Professional Bldg.  
400 Evelyn Street, Suite 215  
Albany, CA 94706  
(510) 910-0505

## Monthly Estate Auction



**AUCTIONS BY THE BAY, INC.**  
Located on the Eastern shore of San Francisco Bay

**Estate Auction:**  
**Saturday, Dec. 13th, 11AM**  
Held in our main gallery, 2751 Todd Street, Alameda  
**Preview: Sunday, Dec 7th, 9am-4pm;**  
**Friday, Dec 12th, 11am-6pm; Day of Sale at 9am**

Featuring: Art Nouveau and American Sterling Silver, Faberge, Fine Jewelry, Rugs, 19th and 20th Century lighting, 19th Century English and American Furniture & a nice selection of Continental Mirrors.

Experience our Auctions in our Art Deco Movie Palace, ebay live or liveauctioneers.com - Full catalog available at [www.auctionsbythebay.com](http://www.auctionsbythebay.com) or call 510-740-0220

Ask about our "No Risk Consignment Policy"  
Our Auctions Are Free and Open to the Public  
Only 15 minutes drive from San Francisco

Auctions By The Bay, Inc.  
2700 Saratoga Street  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Bund #050466

**California's Newest & Finest Auction House**  
Now Accepting Consignments

ECCO • JOSEF SEIBEL • RIEKER • HUSH PUPPIES

ROCKPORT • MERRELL • SANITA • MUNRO • RYKA

**ecco**



**Scott's Shoes**

Women's and Men's Footwear  
1330 Park Street • Alameda  
(510) 865-5565

STONE ISLAND • MERRELL • NEW BALANCE • MUNRO

DANSKO • CLARKS • BIRKENSTOCK • RYKA • ZEETA

**Spenger's**  
*Fresh Fish Grotto*

Think of Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto  
For Your

**Holiday Dining**

- Open Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day
- Accommodating your Large Family Gathering or Intimate Meal

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF GOOD TASTE**

How much good taste is up to you...

Gift cards can be purchased in ANY DENOMINATION at the restaurant, by phone or online at [www.McCormickandSchmids.com](http://www.McCormickandSchmids.com)



1919 Fourth Street, Berkeley • (510) 845-7771

**FREE**

**LOW E' Glass!**

When You Purchase 6 or More Window Replacement Windows

Installation

Family Owned & Operated

AAE & AAMA Certified

Residential & Commercial

Free Installation Guarantee

Insured & Bonded



**SINAN'S WINDOWS**

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1975

LIC. #305016

**Three Generations of Service**



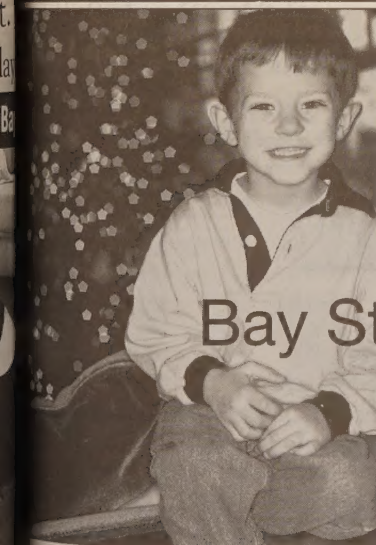
Thank you Bay Area!



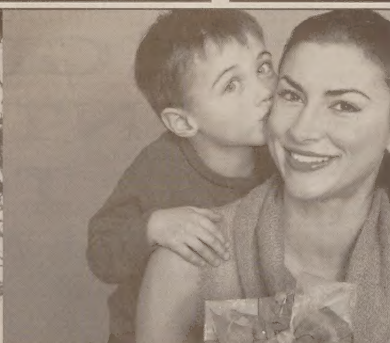
Visit Our Showroom at  
**5030 Telegraph Ave.**  
**in Oakland**

Mon-Fri 8-5 Sat 10-4  
or Call us for a FREE estimate  
**510-654-9944**

Fax 510-654-9945  
[www.sinanswindows.com](http://www.sinanswindows.com)



## Bay Street goes Sleigh Street.



- Ann Taylor Loft
- Apple Computer
- Bath & Body Works
- Buckhorn Grill
- Coach
- Cold Stone Creamery
- EB Games
- Elements for the Sole
- Gymboree
- Harry and David
- Harvest Home Stores
- Mimi Maternity
- Pottery Barn Kids
- Sunshades
- Tri-Lu's Salon and Spa
- Victoria's Secret
- Williams-Sonoma
- Zao Noodle Bar
- and more...

### Santa Photos

Santa has arrived at Bay Street and awaits you at Candy Candy Lane (across from Barnes and Noble.)  
Weekends through December 14th 11AM – 6PM.  
Daily beginning December 16th 11AM – 6PM.

### Holiday Gift with Purchase

Spend \$150 at Bay Street between now and 12/22 and receive a 2 for 1 ticket offer to the Oakland Ballet's Nutcracker. Just bring your receipts to Harry and David or Bath & Body Works to receive your certificate.

### Holiday Food Drive

Drop off your non-perishable food items in our snowman's tummy located in the plaza, across from Barnes & Noble. All donations benefit the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Enjoy strolling entertainment each weekend throughout the holidays while visiting our great shops, restaurants and 16-screen movie theatre!

### Holiday Tree Lot at Bay Street

Now through December 22nd.  
Douglas Firs — **all trees \$21.99**  
Hours: 9AM – 9PM.



CORNER OF CITY AND LIFE  
Off I-80, exit Powell or Shellmound to Bay Street  
[www.baystreetemeryville.com](http://www.baystreetemeryville.com)



## Park

FROM PAGE A1

About 50 children wasted no time running, squealing and climbing—using multi-colored notches on the wall—to its very top, about 15 feet high.

"It's awesome and it's really scary the first time you're on it," said 10-year-old Alayna, a Castro Elementary School student. "I felt like I was going to fall off because I couldn't get my grip on something." She seemed to master it after a few minutes.

The Castro play equipment includes a more standard structure for younger children, separated from the climbing wall by three picnic tables. Two other rubber web-shaped climbing structures round out the play equipment. The improvements include upgraded drainage and landscaping.

It was paid for with a \$55,000 grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, a \$50,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and \$75,000 from the city's childcare construction fund and Measure A Parcel tax money.

A new playground at Cerrito Vista Park was unveiled last year. A new structure will open at Central Park in January.

The city is also working on a design and applying for a state grant for a new playground at Arlington Park.

"There's a list of safety standards that we want to meet on all new play structures," Clark said. "That's the primary reason" for the upgrades.

## Creek

FROM PAGE A1

the plaza, worth about \$160,000, to the city.

The city saw an opportunity. "It was very legitimate, a lot of good planning had to go into it," Schwartz said. "Because as you can see, the shopping center is using every bit of parking it has."

The project was intended to make the creek more accessible, healthier and safer, said Heather Koch, the city's environmental project manager. To do that, the slope of the banks were made less steep. About 800 feet of the creek, between Talbot and Kains avenues, was given less of a man-made look. "Some of it has a more natural meander. Some of it is pretty straight," said Schwartz. "We couldn't get that much land."

Those improvements will prevent erosion and make the creek less prone to flooding. Native vegetation will provide an improved habitat for animals, Koch said.

"And it's pretty," Schwartz added. "It was not pretty before."

City officials consider the restoration the result of the hard work and support of several organizations and many individuals, including city staff, the City Council, Friends of Five Creeks and the Coastal Conservancy.

The restoration is also connected to efforts by El Cerrito and Albany to create a trail that would partially follow the creek, and connect the Ohlone Greenway to the Bay Trail and Eastshore State Park.

El Cerrito is applying for grants to begin implementing parts of that trail plan. Albany is working out how to resolve problems associated with its portion of the plan before it attempts to garner funding for implementation, said Judy Lieberman, Albany assistant to the



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

**KIDS COULDN'T** wait to climb on the new play structure after its dedication at Castro Park.

Clark said the climbing wall was chosen for Castro Park because the city wanted something different at all city parks.

That was fine for Pasha, an 11-year-old sixth grader at Castro Elementary School with short blond hair.

city administrator.

"It's a 10-year project, but some day we will have this kind of trail alongside Cerrito creek," said Schwartz.

A similar trail/creek project, called the Baxter Creek Gateway project, is being done on the north side of El Cerrito. The city is seeking grants to implement an extension of the Ohlone Greenway on that end of the city, restore a portion of Baxter Creek there and eventually connect it to the Richmond Greenway across San Pablo Avenue.

## Delay

FROM PAGE A1

\$2.5 million. The operator, Speakeasy Theaters, is contracted to pay back the money over 25 years.

It will be recommended to the Redevelopment Agency that the theater restoration be paid for in cash, to avoid a high loan interest rate.

Trevino expected some of the cash to come in part from the recent sale of Del Norte Place, a mixed-use project on the north end of town partially funded by the redevelopment agency. However, some of the money coming back to the agency can't be used, as it is earmarked for housing. And there is other number-crunching involved, she said.

"It's just kind of messy," Trevino said. "It involves going over old records."

In the meantime, the friends, now officially a nonprofit organization, held a meeting Tuesday to brainstorm fund-raising ideas.

The stage of the chilly theater was crowded with empty film reels. Architectural drawings of how the theater will be renovated were posted up on the walls.

The group also had T-shirts for sale: "Preserving a reel community landmark," they said.

"I'm thrilled you're taking on this project," said one woman, who said she went to the Parkway Theater recently in Oakland,

but it was sold out. The Parkway, which serves food, beer and wine, is a model for how the Cerrito will operate.

Participants broke into five small groups for about 20 minutes to discuss fund-raising ideas, which were all over the map. They included: partnering with local businesses, nonprofit organizations and performing artists to raise money; writing letters to film studios and movie director George Lucas for support; using direct mail; having donors listed on plaques; and having a fund-raising street fair.

The suggestion that came up again and again: Put up a banner letting people know the theater exists. It's located at San Pablo and Central avenues.

Besides that, the meeting was largely informational. In a presentation, Lehman asked participants to write postcards to the redevelopment agency encouraging them to approve funding for the project.

"They need to know that you're still in the project and you're not going to go away," Lehman said.

Jeff Lichtman, a Cerrito resident, said he saw the project as a chance to see the city take action. "The city lacks places where people can get together," he said.

He also noted that the architectural drawings of the El Cerrito "film festival" were "kick out of it."

The next meeting of the Cerrito Friends of the Theater is scheduled for Jan. 20. For more information, visit the theater.org. The agency will consider money for the project.

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or alopez@hillsnews.com

**Celebrate Christmas**  
at  
**Hs Lordships Restaurant**  
Enjoy the panoramic ocean views  
Filet Mignon, Seafood  
Stellar Wines  
199 Seaway Dr., Berkeley  
510-843-2733 On The Berkeley Marina

**ALPHA**  
QUANTITE & MARBRE

SAN LEANDRO  
2303 Merced Street  
Phone 510-357-6197  
Toll Free 1-800-818-7878

ALSO IN SANTA CLARA  
SACRAMENTO AND DENVER

WWW.ALPHAGRANITE.COM

## GIVE THE ENTIRE MALL TO ONE AND ALL.

Hilltop Mall Gift Certificates are the perfect gifts. Especially when you consider that they're good at every store and never expire.

Available at the Information Desk, Hilltop Mall Gift Certificates are the gifts that always fit.

# HILLTOP MALL

Right off I-80  
JC Penney, Macy's, Sears and  
150 other great stores!  
shophilltop.com

**WEST COUNTY TIMES**  
**CONTRA COSTA TIMES**  
CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM



**Albany**  
Korean House

- Bulgoki
- Dol So! Di Bim Bab
- Soon Tofu
- Kalbi

510.526.6003  
1137 Solano Avenue  
Albany, CA 94706

Visit **City Center**  
for the **Holidays!**

....

For a list of  
upcoming  
events ...

510.628.8490 or  
www.oaklandcitycenter.com







*KitchenWorks trivia question of the week:*

A major remodeling expense...  
or an affordable refacing investment?



## KitchenWorks®

THE CABINET REFACERS

Want to update your kitchen without the major upset to your budget? Get more for your remodeling dollar with kitchen cabinet refacing. Since 1986, KitchenWorks has been providing Bay Area homeowners with a better, more affordable alternative to traditional kitchen remodeling.

Using your existing kitchen layout, we'll remove and discard your old cabinet doors and drawer fronts, reface the exposed frames, then install new custom-made doors, drawer fronts and hardware. We can even build additional cabinets for extra storage space or add all the features you've always wanted, at half the cost of a major remodel! Join thousands of our satisfied customers by contacting us today for a free estimate.

The impressive benefits of a major remodel at 1/2 the cost, in 1/2 the time

**Holiday Sale: Save 25%**

Offer ends December 14th. Limit one sale per customer. In-store only.



*In addition to new cabinet doors, drawer fronts and hardware, you can also add:*

- ✓ Additional cabinets
- ✓ A new pantry
- ✓ A new island
- ✓ New roll-out shelves
- ✓ New drawer boxes
- ✓ New sinks and plumbing
- ✓ New appliances installed
- ✓ A new built-in wine rack
- ✓ New countertops

Available in the following areas:

- Tile
- Corian®
- Formica®
- Granite



**Call us today for a FREE estimate**

Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**1-800-464-2234, ask for ext. 372**

San Francisco 362-0908	San Rafael 456-4696	Berkeley 548-2436	Walnut Creek 932-6772
San Mateo 344-0617	Santa Rosa 575-3633	San Jose 292-0313	Hayward 886-5448

**No Payments, No Interest for 6 months!**  
or choose the payment plan that fits your budget.

We offer NO PAYMENTS and NO INTEREST for 6 MONTHS\*\* or let us help you with a convenient monthly payment program. Visa® and MasterCard® accepted.

\*\*Not to be used in conjunction with other offers. Interest rate ranges from 7.99% to 13.99% on approved credit based on creditworthiness of borrower, amount financed and repayment term and is subject to change. Repayment terms are 12 to 126 months. Financing is provided by EnerBank USA, 1245 East Brickyard Road, Suite 100, Salt Lake City UT 84106, phone (800) 273-4900. This offer is available only at the time of your initial estimate. CCL #500896. Copyright ©2003 KitchenWorks, Inc. 12/2003

**KitchenWorks®**  
THE CABINET REFACERS

visit our website: [www.kitchenworks.com](http://www.kitchenworks.com)



# Real Estate & Home

Supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmonter

Friday, December 12, 2003

Section B



PHOTO COURTESY ROSE GARDEN INN

TECT C.M. COOK DESIGNED THIS HOME IN THE TUDOR REVIVAL STYLE for John Albert Marshall, a local building contractor and real estate developer; many of Berkeley's early sidewalks still bear the company's name. The home is now part of the Rose Garden Inn.

## Small-scale adaptive reuse: Berkeley's Rose Garden Inn

Three of the last century, the main entrance leading from Oakland Avenue. It ended at the UC campus, at what is now Sproul Plaza did not survive World War II. The early 1900s, grand mansions reflected the wealth and standing of their residents. Almost all have been torn down over the past few decades. One of these early 20th century mansions has survived at 2740 and Telegraph Ave. Both were original residences built for John Al-

bert Marshall. Marshall was a renowned building contractor and real estate developer. His was a cement contractor, and laid many of Berkeley's early sidewalks around the turn of the century, some of which still bear the name of his company.

John Marshall and the Cunningham Brothers Architects designed the two-plus story house at 2744 Telegraph in 1900 as a shingled Colonial Revival house. There is rusticated stonework facing on the first floor, and on the two stone chimneys.

At the southeast corner is a rounded double bay, the front porch



MARK WILSON  
Owning A Piece of History

has squared Ionic columns and turned balusters, and the massive front door is made of mahogany. The roof is hipped, and there are several dormer windows set into the slope of the roof.

After the 1906 earthquake, a millionaire from the Nevada gold fields saw the mansion at 2744 Telegraph Ave., and decided to buy it from Marshall, who immediately built a second mansion that he vowed would be "an even larger and more

See WILSON, Page B2

## Real Estate Spotlight:

### Stately and secure home in Rockridge



BUILT IN 1996 by former UC Berkeley architecture professor Randolph Langenbach, this unique and sophisticated home in the Upper Rockridge area of Oakland is full of light and open space. The home is approximately 2,095 square feet and has three bedrooms and two and one-half baths, an eat-in kitchen and a spacious master suite. The dining area flows to a wonderful terraced back yard that includes a brick patio and deck for outdoor entertaining. Hand trowelled plaster walls, hardwood floors and beautiful steel beamed ceilings are just a few of the features of this wonderful home.

The house also boasts a Damped Sway Foundation System. The system, which is a type of base-isolation, was conceived, designed and developed by Langenbach and Gene St. Onge, engineer, to reduce the potential destructive effects of earthquakes on residential structures. The foundation system utilizes steel screw piles (helical anchors) instead of the usual concrete piers or grade beam. These steel piles, which are connected to large shock absorbers, are allowed to sway in the event of an earthquake. This is truly a unique property.

Price: \$750,000. Listing agent: Carla Buffington, Pacific Union Residential Brokerage, Montclair Village, 510-339-6460, ext. 1367, cbuffington@pacunion.com.

## Will this housing boom continue?

■ The National Association of Realtors assesses the market

BY STEVE BROWN  
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Mortgage rates get most of the credit for the current housing boom, but demographics and the growth of the Internet are playing a big part, too. That's why economists for the National Association of Realtors are forecasting that

the housing market will stay strong in 2004.

"The real question is will the boom continue?" said David Lereah, the Realtors' senior economist. "Housing remains hot—red hot. The housing sector boom is not a short-term phenomenon," he told real estate agents who met recently for the association's annual conference.

With existing home sales at record high levels, the Realtors'

association is predicting that sales will total almost 6 million this year. That's up from less than 3.8 million existing home sales per year just 10 years ago.

"There's more to that than just low interest rates," Lereah said. "There has to be something else out there."

Demographics are playing a

See BOOM, Page B2

## MONTCLAIR



Each office is independently owned and operated

1986 Mountain Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510.339.8400

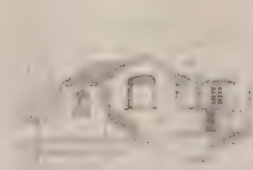
1430 Leimert Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94602  
510.339.4000

www.MontclairBetterHomes.com

Open Sunday  
December 14  
2:00 to 4:30

**OAKLAND \$810,000**  
**277 Capricorn Avenue**  
New on the market! Beautiful Montclair contemporary with master suite. Two family rooms, Eat-in-kitchen, open floorplan. Good family home close to village.  
Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

**OAKLAND \$579,000**  
**4267 Montgomery Street**  
Cute California Bungalow, beautiful hardwood floors, great location. Huge backyard, extra large living room, formal dining room.  
Michael Godanis 510-339-4000



**IDORA PARK \$535,000**  
**563 58th Street**  
Nice contemporary Spanish Mediterranean in Idora Park. Excellent split level floor plan. Plenty of storage. Large front and back yards. Possible in-law unit. A must see!  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**SAN LEANDRO \$448,000**  
**1680 Scenicview Drive**  
3 bridge views and spectacular sunsets from cul-de-sac location high atop Bay-O-Vista in San Leandro Hills. Custom 2 BD/2 BA ranch built into hillside for low maintenance. Master suite, fireplace, 2 car garage, swim club and more.  
Sherdella Sims 510-339-4000

**SAN LEANDRO \$399,000**  
**1437 140th Avenue**  
A very special 3 BD/1 BA with eat-in kitchen + 3 bonus rooms! Random plank floors, fresh interior paint—ready to go!  
EarleShenk.com 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$399,000**  
**320 Park View Terrace**  
New on the market! Beautiful condo walking distance to Lake Merritt, 2 BD/2 BA, fireplace, inside laundry.  
Maria Sinclair 510-339-4566

## By Appointment

**SAN RAMON \$775,000**  
On a private court, this 2 story 4 bedroom home with over 2,800 square feet is in a premier neighborhood. Large yard area, tranquil setting, spacious kitchen with island. Great condition! Don't wait!  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**WALNUT CREEK \$635,000**  
Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this immaculate, remodeled rancher is move-in ready! Serious buyers, compare this price and value to others. Large master bedroom and family room—gorgeous patio and private backyard garden. Enjoy Christmas in your new home.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**OAKLAND \$595,000**  
A great investment! Two level parcels for one price. Located in the heart of Oakland's Auto Row. Zoned C-40 for most types of use. Ready for apartment builders, auto parking lot, or mixed use space. A must see!  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$578,000**  
Wish upon a star...Breathtaking views nestled high in the Oakland hills, 3 BD/2.5 BA, 2 car attached garage. 10 years new, move-in condition, easy SF commute.  
Adrian Michelle 510-339-4000

**DANVILLE \$539,900**  
Everything has been done—newer carpeting, recently painted and meticulously maintained. 2 bedrooms plus computer room. View lot with open vistas. Crow Canyon Country Club at its finest!  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**CLAYTON \$519,000**  
12 Welcome home to this single level, 3 bedrooms on a large private lot. Only 3 years new and within walking distance to town or just enjoy walking on your wrap-around front porch.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**OAKLAND \$500,000**  
Great value! Large main house with 4 BD/2.5 BA. Fireplace in LR, w/w carpet good floor plan. Sunroom off MBR with sep. entrance. Also a clean duplex with 1 BD/1 BA.  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$499,000**  
Cul de Sac location. Quiet neighborhood. Front home is 2+BD/1.5 BA. Low pest report. Nice floor plan in both.  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$469,000**  
Charming 4BD/2 BA contemporary with spacious beautifully landscaped front yard surrounded by flagstone patios and mature shade trees. Perfect for indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Beautiful refinished hardwood floors on the main level, new paint thru-out. Detached 2-car garage plus off-street parking.  
Nahid Nassiri.com 510-339-4550

**PLEASANT HILL \$449,900**  
Super home in a wonderful neighborhood near all conveniences. Remodeled kitchen and updated baths. Living room with hardwood floors and fireplace. Large family room, laundry room and storage.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**CLAYTON \$399,000**  
12.66 acres of natural beauty. Enjoy nature on this hard-to-find large lot. Wooded hills and lots of trees with flowing creek. Build your dream home! 2 wells and septic approval.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**BAY POINT \$399,000**  
3 minutes to BART! 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths with formal dining and large family room. Open, light floorplan with cathedral ceilings. New roof, new high-quality windows and doors, in great pristine condition. Delightful yard and deck. Pie-shaped lot with huge side yard.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**OAKLAND \$275,000**  
Cute bungalow in need of TLC. Quiet neighborhood. Eat in kitchen, laundry room, w/w carpets. Much potential. Vacant at close of escrow.  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**OAKLAND \$200,000**  
Cute starter home with room for expansion...Asking \$200,000. Don't miss the opportunity to own your own home. 1 BD/1 BA with large lot and garden. Freshly painted inside and out.  
Don Oliva 510-339-4000

## Income Property



**OAKLAND \$409,000**  
Great investment property with Bay view. Freshly painted. Good upside potential rent.  
Linda Oliva 510-339-4000

## Rental

**ROCKRIDGE \$2300**  
For lease Rockridge with a view of SF. Charming traditional 3 BD/1.5 BA hardwood floors, super clean. Remodeled kitchen and bath. 2 car attached garage, fenced yard.  
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

## Commercial



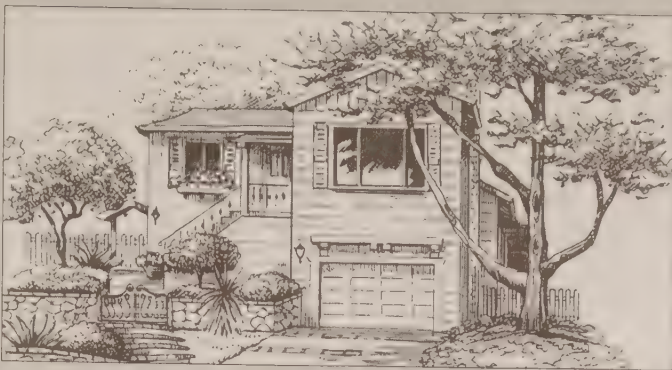
**OAKLAND \$1,500,000**  
Gorgeous and classic Victorian building. 8200 +/- square feet. 4100 sq.ft. of bar/restaurant and leased retail space downstairs, 4100 sq.ft. of framed office or residential space upstairs. In heart of Oakland's Auto Row.  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!



## Real Estate Focus:

## Country living at its best in the city



**THIS CHARMING AND SPACIOUS TRADITIONAL STYLE HOME** at 3130 Guido St. is in a woody area of Redwood Heights in Oakland. Beautiful tree views from every room offer maximum privacy, serenity and great bird watching. Rooms are spacious and sun-filled. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout. The superb floor plan makes this the perfect home for entertaining as well as comfortable for every day. The split-level floor plan sets the bedrooms apart from the main entertaining area. Both bedrooms are large, quiet and comfortable. The formal dining room has built-ins and has enough space for a small home office or sofa. The delightful kitchen has been upgraded with granite tile counter tops, Pergo flooring and new appliances, which includes a dual fuel gas range and convection oven. The laundry room and pantry are just off the kitchen.

This wonderful property has a deep lot that has been terraced for the owner's enjoyment. A new deck and outdoor lighting makes this the perfect place for a summer barbecue. For those who enjoy gardening, the front and rear yard await artistic touches.

Price: \$519,000. Open Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.  
Agent: Diane Earl McCan, Pacific Union, 510-338-1352.

## Boom

FROM PAGE B2

big part in the home-buying binge, Lereah said.

"We have had a surge in immigration over the last several decades," he said. "Thirty years ago when immigrants came in to this county, it took them decades to participate in the home-buying process," he said. "Today an immigrant comes, and they think immediately about buying a home."

"Mathematically that piece of the pie will increase homeownership rates in America," Lereah said.

The Internet has also fueled the housing market, he said.

"It has empowered buyers and sellers and increased activity," Lereah said. "It has reduced the

cost of buying and selling a home." And the fallout in the stock market has benefited housing as investors shift funds.

"Real estate is now a competitor to stocks and bonds," Lereah said. "Housing value is now greater than the stock market value."

All these factors are fueling the market for new and existing homes. And even the prospect of slightly higher mortgage rates in the year ahead won't dim the outlook, he said.

The Realtors association is predicting that average home loan rates will total about 6.5 percent for 2004. That's up from just below 5 percent last summer. Lereah said the improving economy and federal borrowing ensure that mortgage rates will rise next year.

"If there is one critical factor that could hurt and harm housing, it's

the budget deficit," he said. "You will get higher interest rates."

And for every 1 percent rise in mortgage rates, economists estimate that 250,000 buyers are priced out of the market.

"We are going to lose some home sales just because of higher interest rates," Lereah said.

Realtors are forecasting that existing home sales next year will total 5.6 million — down about 400,000 sales from 2003.

Lereah is also hoping that the upward pressure on home prices will cool.

This year existing home sales prices are expected to be up by more than 8 percent nationwide. Next year, price appreciation should be about half that rate.

"That's good news," Lereah said. "There was too much pressure on home prices."

But he doesn't predict a home price bubble that will burst — contrary to some economists' fears. Likewise, Lereah discounts concerns about rising foreclosure rates in some housing markets.

"The worst is behind us," he said.

## Get the New Year off to a good start

## ■ Take a look at this financial refresher course

Every new year we make promises and lists of goals that we are hoping to achieve in the coming year. One common goal that may seem tough — but can be quite attainable — is getting our finances in order.

If you are building a brand-new financial plan or getting your detailed plan back on track, you will need to start with some time-tested strategies that investors have followed for decades. Let us take a look at some of the basics.

Do not sacrifice your goals. These days, one thing that is painfully obvious is that many investors have less money to invest. The bear market in stocks has affected just about everyone, but you should not fall into the trap of thinking that saving is futile.

Investing for the future may be the only way you will be able to enjoy a financially secure retirement or pay for your child or grandchild's education.

The market's recent performance is not an indication that you can't achieve your goals. It simply means you will need to stay focused.

Use tax-advantaged savings vehicles. When it comes to increasing the amount you save, you need to make sure that you are contributing as much as possible to tax-advantaged savings vehicles.

Even though recent legislation lowered many tax rates, income taxes still reduce the return from your investments. However, traditional IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans still let you

defer taxes until retirement. Furthermore, Roth IRAs, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and 529 plans offer the potential for tax-free growth.

Even if you have been discouraged by the recent market volatility, when it comes to participating in your employer's retirement plan, regardless of what type of plan it is, you should not be tempted to stop or lower the amount you contribute for your retirement.

Some participants have reallocated their employer-sponsored balances toward lower potential return asset classes, such as cash or bonds.

Treat your employer-sponsored retirement plan as an integral part of your overall asset allocation and investment plan and review it along with your other holdings to ensure that it is still appropriate given your situation and current market conditions.

Perhaps it is time to revisit dividend-paying stocks or other rising income alternatives for the equity portion of your retirement plan balance. And it may be time to trim your exposure to long-term fixed income securities, which might be vulnerable to loss in value due to higher interest rates that could be on the horizon.

Take a disciplined approach to savings. When it comes to investing, discipline may be the key to a successful plan. Rather than spending your money and trying to save what is left over, you should save first and then limit your spending to the remaining amount. One of the best ways to do so is to save the same amount on a regular basis —

be it each week or month. For example, you can set up a specific amount to be automatically deducted from your paycheck.

Reinvesting dividends and spending them is a good way for increasing your equity. Taxable accounts like IRAs and 401(k)s are paid on a tax-deferred basis and the amount is reinvested in the same way. Other ways to increase your savings include making strategic investments that have a higher return than the average.

Get going today. Waiting may have seemed like a good idea years ago, but it is still time to start your money working for you. Unfortunately, investors who wait until the good times end and that something as an investment on the shelf.

By starting today and using the strategies outlined here, your financial future may be brighter. We can help you make the most of your new year on the right foot.

Leila Gough is an Advisor with A.G. Gough & Co., Inc. in Oakland. She can be reached at (510) 452-8060.

## Wilson

FROM PAGE B1

handsome residence." This is the home that now stands next door at 2740 Telegraph Ave.

Architect C.M. Cook designed the second Marshall home in the Tudor Revival style with two high-peaked gables in front, lined with barge boards, half-timbering on the upper story and two projecting bay windows.

The second story overhangs the first story in true Tudor fashion. The first floor has rusticated stone facing, as does the archway above the entrance. The front windows on the ground floor have diamond paned lead latticing, another authentic 16th century detail.

In 1979, the home at 2740 Telegraph was purchased and converted into an inn. Most of the original details of the interior were retained after this adaptive reuse. These include the inlaid hardwood floors, a large fireplace with massive mantel in the living room, smaller fireplaces in the upstairs rooms, and several large ornate stained glass windows.

In 1984, the same innkeepers purchased the home at 2744 Tele-

graph Ave. They converted it into a second facility for this bed and breakfast business, which at that time was known as "Grandma's Rose Garden Inn." The interior of 2744 has also retained most of its original architectural details after the adaptive reuse.

In the past decade or so, other buildings were incorporated into the inn's property, which is now known as "The Rose Garden Inn." The original carriage house for 2744 Telegraph was converted into more guest rooms.

The old Garden House, built some time shortly after World War II, was also converted into rooms for the inn. Finally, the new Cottage House was constructed in 1991 to provide even more guest rooms. There are now a total of 14 rooms in the Rose Garden Inn. A full buffet-style breakfast is served daily to visitors as well as the guests of the inn.

Some of the information for this article was taken from the book *Berkeley Landmarks* by Susan Cemy; manager, Kevin Allen shared facts about The Rose Garden Inn.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.

## Real Estate &amp; Home

A Weekly Publication of  
Hills Newspapers

General Manager.....Shareef Dajani  
Editor.....Dennis Evanovsky

Alameda 510-748-1688

Advertising Sales.....Joyce Thompson  
Open Homes Guide FAX.....510-748-1679  
Albany, Berkeley, Kensington  
510-262-2755

Advertising Sales.....Emily Wallace  
Open Homes Guide FAX.....510-243-3500

El Cerrito, Richmond, West County 510-262-2799  
Advertising Sales.....Kris Maples  
Open Homes Guide FAX.....510-243-3500

Oakland, Piedmont 925-952-2630  
Advertising Sales.....M. J. Brandenberger  
Open Homes Guide FAX.....925-943-8347

## HILLS NEWSPAPERS

BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTCLARION  
PIEDMONT / ALAMEDA JOURNAL

## New Listing in Berkeley!

OPEN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2-4:30PM



1451 Virginia Street

Conveniently located in North Berkeley, this charming light-filled 2+BR/1BA bungalow has an abundance of wonderful architectural details. The living room has a beautiful beamed cathedral ceiling, and both living room and dining room have lovely leaded glass built-ins. The split-level design provides wonderful separation of spaces. In addition, a serene garden provides nice areas for outdoor enjoyment.

Offered at \$459,000



**Leslie Avant**  
Senior Sales Consultant  
(510) 338-1341



just ask our clients

pacificunion.com



988 Arbor Drive, Estudillo Estates  
Open Sunday 1-4 p.m.

A special and well built home with dramatic dimensions! Old English charm prevails with mellow dark hewn wood & rugged brick accents, hardwood floors, multi-light windows & doors, vaulted & 9 ft. ceilings, formal entertaining living and separate dining rooms, open spiral staircase & leaded glass. Spoil yourself and own a classic on the tree lined streets of Estudillo Estates. Offering the "I want's..." 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and family room off kitchen.

Listed at \$649,900

**DEREK RINETTI**  
(510) 568-6171 (Office)  
(510) 636-6000 (Direct)  
email: RinettiCo@aol.com

**Rinetti & Co**  
598 Victoria Circle  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
(510) 568-6171

## Essential Real Estate Definitions

**gr8-agents** ('grit-i-jents): 1: referral network of top notch agents proven success in communities they serve 2: pre-qualified agents to providing valuable advice and unparalleled service

**gr8-rewards** ('grit-n-'words): 1: receive cash toward your costs

**gr8-satisfaction** ('grit-sa-tos-'fak-shon): 1: contact gr8agents for a referral to an exceptional agent for your sale and/or purchase 2: meeting with a referred agent does not obligate you to use the agent's now for your free referral

\* when you close your transaction using an agent referred to you by gr8agents

**888-gr8-agents (888-478-2438)**

The fast, easy way to find a great agent for your sale or purchase



SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**510-523-1144**  
835 Island Drive, Alameda

hbrhomes.com

**Castro Valley**

\$369,000 2265 Kipling St. Single level 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with fireplace. Some wood floors and attached garage. Room to expand! Diana 510-814-4718.

**El Sobrante**

\$578,000 34 La Paloma Ct. Mediterranean built in 2002! 4+ bd, 2.5 ba and family room. Very spacious den/loft upstairs. Large lot, cul-de-sac location. Donaluc 510-814-4826.

**Oakland**

\$210,000 877 42nd St. One of the original live/work properties. Living area above a former business. Corner location with many possible uses. Jeff 510-814-4885.

\$285,000 884 42nd St. Cute 1 bedroom, 1 bath single level bungalow with yard and garage. Formal dining room could be used as a second bedroom. Steve 510-814-4888.

\$399,000 2865 Morcom Ave. Maxwell Park Home. 3+bd, 1.5ba. Hardwood floors, large room, eat-in kitchen. 510-814-4840.

\$462,500 1024 Wood St. Beautiful Victorian - Spacious w/5BR, 2BA. Formal dining, in-law w/entry. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$548,000 13383 Campus Dr. Choice of lot with panoramic view in the prestigious 13383 area in the Oakland Hills. 510-814-4814.

**Hayward**

\$339,000 2213 Oak Creek Dr. 2 bedroom end unit. PENDING

**Montclair**

\$749,000 152 Glenwood Dr. Wonderful Tudor home in great condition. 510-814-4810.

**San Leandro**

\$295,000 2511 Galloway Dr. 1 bath bright home. PENDING

\$675,000 2148 Harborview Dr. Beautiful 3bd home with some upgrades. 510-814-4888.

**San Lorenzo**

\$339,000 533 Drew St. 2ba home with granite counter. Dual pane windows. 510-814-4882

**San Francisco**

\$339,000 5150 Diamond Blvd. 306 B. Spectacular bridge. PENDING



equally; both must agree on use and disposition of property; tax liabilities and benefits shared by both; upon spouse's death, property automatically goes to survivor, who becomes sole owner.

**Tenancy in common:** Unrelated home buyers who are considered co-owners (condominium owners, for example); co-owners hold title equally or unequally; individual co-owner does not need consent of others to use or dispose of their interest; tax liabilities and benefits apply to each individual; upon death of co-owner, property passes to designated heir(s) through probate.

**Partnership:** Unrelated home buyers; partnership holds title; partnership sets parameters for use and disposition of property; partnership not liable for individual circumstances that could affect title, for example, bankruptcy; tax liabilities and benefits apply to partnership; upon death of one partner, partnership interest passes to designated heir(s), which could be partner(s).

**A note on living trusts**

After you've purchased a home, you may want to transfer your title into a living trust, a mechanism that can spare your heirs probate costs and hassle.

You may only make this move after closing because most mortgage lenders will not lend to a trust, only to individuals or corporations.

Also, lenders usually require that title to the property be in the names of the individuals responsible for repaying the debt.

Owners whose property is in a living trust usually have to transfer title to the property out of the trust in order to refinance their mortgage.

Go to [www.inman.com](http://www.inman.com) for more articles on title insurance options.

# Celebrating silver



PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE'S AMBERSON MAC MCCULLOCH celebrated his 25th year in the real estate business on Dec. 3. Mac has managed Prudential's East Bay office since 1983. He opened the firm's Castro Valley office in 1989 and its Alameda office at Neptune Plaza in 1999. Mac is shown here with his wife of 33 years, Mary, their daughters Kate and Molly — and Carmel, the only one of the family's five cats who agreed to go on camera. The McCullochs have lived in Alameda since 1974. To offer your congratulations, call Mac at 510-287-2579.

# How long does it really take to remodel?

You've been considering remodeling for the past couple of years, and you're finally ready to begin making it a reality. You've been planning what you want to change in the room to be remodeled. You've decided what you want new space to accomplish, and what specific features you want to include. You've also done your homework as far as a realistic budget. You've just begun looking for the right remodeling contractors to handle the project.

As you talk with prospective contractors, you're probably asking, "How long will it take to actually build?" People unfamiliar with the remodeling process are sometimes shocked by what a realistic timeline actually looks like. This is because there are many more steps to a project than you might imagine — especially if the job is to be done right.

Below is an sample timeline for a typical kitchen and powder room remodel. This is a "total gut" job, which means that all finishes and fittings are removed, and the rooms are demolished to the wall studs.

No walls are moved but there is some exterior work where a window is replaced with one of a different size.

- Set up, protections and demolition: 9 days
- Rough carpentry (framing): 5 days
- Rough utilities (electric, plumbing and HVAC): 15 days
- Exterior carpentry, stucco: 15 days
- (including drying time/insulation and sheetrock or plastering: 6 days
- Finish carpentry including cabinets: 15 days
- Tiling: 5 days for tile counters; 2 days for stone counters
- Painting: 11 days
- Flooring: 2 days if vinyl; 6 days if wood
- Finish utilities (electric, plumbing fixtures installed): 4 days
- Clean up: 2 days
- Total: 85 days or 17 work weeks

Since some of this work is done concurrently — this type of kitchen remodel would typically be done in 12 to 14 weeks.

**Permits:** The timeline assumes that you have the necessary permits in place. Permits are required for all work in a kitchen except painting and floor replacement. Securing a permit where a window is changed can take from 1 day to 8 weeks, depending on the community you live in.

**No surprises:** The timeline takes into account a day or two here and there where something is actually delayed because a material was delivered late, or if an area simply takes a little longer than expected.



PAUL WINANS  
From the Ground Up

However, it does not take into account any real surprises that may surface along the way, which is not that uncommon.

An example would be to open the walls and find that the electrical system is not in the condition anticipated and needs to be redone, or to begin digging for an addition to find a layer of concrete underneath from a previous dwelling.

It helps to understand that these things do happen every day in remodeling projects, and when they do, your contractor should move swiftly to address it. You should also assume that the timeline will then be adjusted.

**Staying the course:** The timeline also does not take into account if you change your mind on something once the project is underway. This, too, is not uncommon.

For example, let's say you decide once work has begun, that you want to add a little stained glass window in the ceiling that was not planned for. In most cases the remodeling contractor must stop the work, and make the necessary plans to add this change. This change may also affect other portions of the remodel that were slated to be done next, but cannot be

See WINANS Page B5

**TARPOFF AND TALBERT**  
True Experiences  
**TARPOFF & TALBERT ARE ON VACATION**

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.**

**TERE LEE**  
李麗珠  
814-4840 or 810-6735 pgr  
Marlboro Bay Realty

**"TRUST A PROFESSIONAL WHO CARES"**

**ALAMEDA**  
New Listing:  
1901 SANDCREEK WAY  
3 Bdrm./2 Bath  
Upgrades! Hardwood floors. \$539,000

**SAN LEANDRO**  
2146 HARBORVIEW DR.  
IN THE BAY-O-VISTA AREA  
3 Bdrm./2.5 Bath  
Room, Extra Large Kitchen and Living Room, 2 Fireplaces, View. \$675,000

**14640 OUTRIGGER**  
2 Bdrm./1 Bath  
**SOLD** \$305,000

**14582 OUTRIGGER**  
2 Bdrm./2 Bath  
**SOLD** \$305,000

**2511 GALLEON PLACE**  
2 Bdrm./1 Bath  
**SOLD** \$295,000

**14642 OUTRIGGER**  
2 Bdrm./1 Bath  
**SOLD** \$299,500

**CASTRO VALLEY**  
BRAND NEW LISTING  
1515 GROVE WAY  
3 Bdrm./2 Bath Single Level Home, Beautifully Upgraded, Many Improvements — Must See! \$435,000

**OAKLAND**  
2865 MORCOM  
IN POPULAR PARK  
3 Bdrm./1.5 Bath  
**PENDING** \$399,000

*~ Redwood Heights ~*  
OPEN DECEMBER 14TH, 2-4:30PM

**3130 Guido Street, Oakland**

Charming and spacious traditional located in woodsy area of Redwood Heights. Gracious rooms with gleaming hardwood floors. Delightful, sun-filled kitchen, upgraded counter tops, floor and appliances. Separate laundry room with pantry. Tree views from every room. Deep rear yard with deck and mature landscaping.

*Offered at \$519,000*

**Diane Earl McCan**  
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST  
(510) 338-1352

**PACIFIC UNION**

just ask our clients  
pacunion.com

**MAISON NOUVEAU**

maize awn nu vo  
東西南北  
μαισον νουβeau  
2%\*# \$\*#

It doesn't matter how you say it, we'll still only charge 2% for your side of the transaction.

**Death TAXES**  
Real Estate Commissions

well... not everything in life is certain

2% commission  
2701 College Ave. 510 849 9900

**Dolores Thom**  
Specializing in Crocker Highlands

*Offered at \$665,000  
Sold over asking with 5 offers  
Represented Buyer and Seller*

**1580 Trestle Glen Road**  
Sale Pending

**1540 Holman Road ~ Offered at \$559,000**  
Recently Sold ~ Represented Buyer

**1024 Winsor Avenue ~ Offered at \$599,000**

**230 Park View Avenue, Piedmont ~ Offered at \$799,000**

**315 Shady Valley Court, San Ramon ~ Offered at \$699,000**

Recently Sold ~ Represented Seller

**1038 Longridge Road ~ Offered at \$1,295,000**

**6622 Sobrante Road, Montclair ~ Offered at \$549,000**

**812 Northvale Road ~ Offered at \$800,000**

**1087 Ardmore Avenue ~ Offered at \$699,000**

**785 Trestle Glen Road ~ Offered at \$899,000**

**Dolores Thom**  
Fine Homes Specialist  
(510) 834-2010 Office  
(510) 835-6080 Voice Mail

**Prudential**  
California Realty

Photos, virtual tours and access to all East Bay listings available at:  
[www.doloresthom.com](http://www.doloresthom.com)

**Montclair Better Homes Realty**

**Happy Holidays!**

Peace, joy and good health to all my friends and clients and sincere thanks for your support in making 2003 another record breaking year.

*I couldn't have done it without you.*

**NAHID NASSIRI Gets Results!**  
See for yourself why Nahid Nassiri has been

**"YOUR Best MOVE"**  
For over Twenty Years!

Visit me at [www.NahidNassiri.com](http://www.NahidNassiri.com)

**JUST SOLD**

I recently represented the Buyer of  
**5524 Thomas Avenue, Rockridge**

**Claire Cochran Cunningham**  
510-287-9065

For help in finding the home of your dreams, please give me a call.

**Prudential California Realty**

**Top Producer**



# *Santa Claus Comes to Montclair*

*Save the Date!  
Saturday December 13*

*Santa arrives at  
The GRUBB Co.*

*1960 Mountain Boulevard at 11:00  
Santa will be posing for photos and  
listening to Christmas wishes until 1pm.*

*Santa is bringing along one of his elves to make balloon animals.  
Cookies and Juice will be provided for all.*

*Bring along a toy for our Toys for Tots barrel!*



*Each child will receive  
a photo with Santa  
courtesy of*

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS

*Happy Holidays  
2003*



# Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

news and information for and the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

## IN THE PUBLIC

**Coldwell Banker Toys**  
The holidays would be less than ideal for many area children, but the generosity of a group of real estate professionals, in its 10th year, the Northern California Chapter of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage teamed up with the United States Marine Corps Reserve to make sure Toys for Tots were distributed on time. This year, CB set up collection centers at their offices. Anyone can contribute to a needy child. Residents who wish to participate are encouraged to contact their local Coldwell Banker office for more information.

**Loan Forecast**  
According to the California As-

sociation of Realtors mortgage bankers forecast originations to continue near record pace. Refinancing is expected to decline. The long term forecast for the US economy and the housing-finance market for 2004 and 2005 predicts strong economic growth. Single-family home production and purchases will remain robust. The multi-family residential and commercial sector should pick up in the second half of 2004 and be strong through 2005.

**TOUR DAY**  
Oakland Realtors are invited to join Oakland affiliates at the monthly Tour Day Breakfast once again in January of 2004. Due to the holidays, the Breakfast will be canceled for November and December. Suggestions for next year's speakers should be addressed to Ingrid Westgard of North American Title at 510-867-0496 or Ramadan Aziz of First American Title at 510-339-1230.

yourself up for disappointment and inconvenience. To reduce stress during a kitchen remodel, you may want to consider having your remodeler set up a temporary kitchen elsewhere in your home.

For very little added expense you can have a temporary cooktop and sink — and a lot more peace of mind. So how long will it really take? Be sure to talk at length with your contractor about what is realistic, and allow yourself plenty of time to ensure that your remodel leaves you with the room of your dreams.

Paul Winans is co-founder of Winans Construction in Oakland. Visit their web site at [www.wincon-inc.com](http://www.wincon-inc.com).

**Landlords**  
The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County is offering free Landlord Workshops throughout the month of December. Learn the new landlord-tenant

See REID Page B6



**BOBBIE REID**  
Credit Worthy

## BOBBIE REID

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter has something fabulous planned. The 2003 Inaugural Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12. The ceremony will be held at Scott's Seafood Restaurant at Jack London Square in Oakland. 2003 President Patricia Bouie Hinds has also accepted the position of president for the year 2004. Felicia Favroth is the president-elect. Reservations are required. Call 510-834-0702.

## LANDLORDS

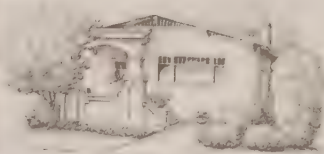
See REID Page B6

## Publisher's Notice

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination "Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents, or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings, advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## The GRUBB Co.



**5533 Broadway, Rockridge**  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Craftsman bungalow with original woodwork and built-ins. Updated kitchen/family room! Two bedrooms, one bath, formal dining room, large basement and detached garage on street behind. Close to shops and BART! Offered at \$550,000

**BEBE McRAE**  
OFFICE: 510.652.2133/415  
[bemcrae@grubco.com](mailto:bemcrae@grubco.com)  
[GRUBCO.COM](http://GRUBCO.COM)

## CONDO FOR RENT

**5340 Broadway Terrace #302**  
Lovely 2 bedroom/2 bath condo in the prestigious Heritage of Claremont. Fireplace. Covered parking space near elevator.  
**\$2200/month**



**Nancy Hinkley**

Office: (510) 428-0900  
Voice Mail: (510) 433-2842



342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

## MONTCLAIR

OPEN SUNDAY  
December 14th



OPEN HOURS  
1:00-4:30 PM

**5946 COLTON BLVD.**

Exceptional Montclair Monterey Colonial Style Home

Stunning Bay, City, and Bridge views await as you enter this elegant home. Large living room, wood floors and fireplace, dining room and kitchen with French doors opening to large deck. Two bedrooms and one bath upstairs and full bath and rec room with fireplace downstairs, opens to large backyard that beckons to gardeners and flower enthusiasts alike and makes this a very special place to call HOME for the HOLIDAYS!

Offered at \$699,000

**Donna Conroy 510-339-4723**

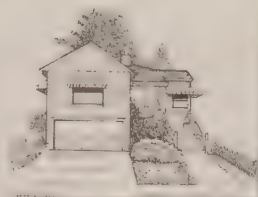
Tour at [www.donnaconroy.com](http://www.donnaconroy.com)



## RED OAK REALTY

[www.redoakrealty.com](http://www.redoakrealty.com)

## Homes Open Sunday



**ALBANY** \$400,000  
2/1 - Spacious 1-plus bdrm. Large enclosed porch with closet. 2nd bdrm. Full basement, garage, yard. Hardwood floors. Wheelchair accessible. More @ [www.bobbilumberg.com](http://www.bobbilumberg.com)  
1191 Santa Fe Avenue Open 2-4



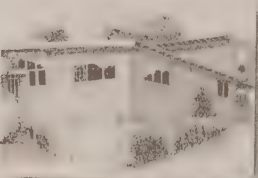
**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING!** \$495,000  
Duplex - Great location for owner user. Two units vacated by the "Ellis Act" February 2003. Delivered completely vacant. Close to campus, shopping and BART.  
1816 Francisco Street Open 2-4



**BERKELEY - NEW LISTING!** \$795,000  
Duplex - Renovated Central Berkeley duplex, built in 1903. 3br/3ba owner's unit and 1bd/1ba apartment! Tastefully remodeled kitchens and baths. MORE!  
1907-1909 Parker Street Open 2-4:30



**BERKELEY** \$689,000  
3/1 - Wonderful, convenient, spacious home with view. Large sunny living room, formal dining room, fabulous large fenced garden. 2-car garage & more!  
419 Boynton Avenue Open 2-4:30



**BERKELEY** \$619,000  
3/2 - Unique brown shingle artist retreat with magical outdoor spaces and Bay views! Newly renovated. More information at [www.heldandjenry.com](http://www.heldandjenry.com).  
1215 Queens Road Open 2-4



**BERKELEY** \$649,000  
Fourplex - Very good condition. Low pest. 2 one-bedroom units & 2 non-conforming studios. 3 units have been remodeled. Nice lot, great neighborhood.  
2336 Curtis Street Open 2-4



**RODEO - NEW LISTING!** \$309,000  
2/1 - Custom built in 1960. Secluded setting on a big lot. Bay and Downtown views! Over 1,400 square feet. Huge potential.  
345 Suisun Avenue Open 2-4



**EMERYVILLE** \$235,000  
1/1 - Easy living condo for the active lifestyle with amenities galore. Courtyard views. New carpet, paint and fixtures. Best price per square foot in Watergate complex.  
3 Captain Drive #D304 Open 2-4

## TOYS for TOTS



Visit any one of our 3 Red Oak Realty offices to drop off a new, non-giftwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

## By Appointment

**BERKELEY** \$449,000  
3/1 - Bungalow with formal dining room with box beam ceiling and fireplace. Huge attic ready for expansion. Sunny yard with deck and garden space.

**SAN PABLO** \$310,000  
2+1/1 - Sunny, spacious home on a large lot. Hardwood floors and fireplace. Close to shops and transportation. Minutes to El Cerrito Plaza.

**KENSINGTON** \$765,000  
3/3 - Charming Tudor with garden cottage retreat, two-car garage, plentiful storage, beautiful living room with fireplace, spacious eat-in kitchen and much more!

**OAKLAND** \$424,000  
Duplex - Maximum elegance in this spacious, remodeled duplex with 2 bedroom townhouse units. Big detached artist studio space. Must see to believe!

**RICHMOND - LAND** \$90,000  
Dramatic Bay and City views from 2,625 sq. ft. on a cul-de-sac. Country setting, quiet, private & serene but close to transportation and I-80.

**OAKLAND** \$199,000  
2/1 - Diamond in the rough! Classic turn-of-the-century home waiting for you to bring it back to its original charm.

**RICHMOND** \$397,000  
2+3/1 - Light and bright townhome in Marina Bay. Private, landscaped yard and two-car attached garage. A must see! More info and photos at [www.kateandmark.com](http://www.kateandmark.com).

**OAKLAND** \$399,000  
LOFT - Super fresh, spacious and soaring 2-level loft in historic Clawson building. Separate living mezzanine. Large west-facing windows.

publis 12/12/03

1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707  
510.527.3367

2983 College Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705  
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley, Oakland, CA 94611  
510.292.2000



# Real estate primer: how to buy a profitable fixer-upper

MAN NEWS FEATURES

Several months ago I wrote a column about buying fixer-upper houses, either for personal use or investment. I was amazed at the positive response I got including lots of good questions requiring more information.

## What is a fixer-upper?

I can't define a fixer-upper house. But I certainly know one when I see it!

"Fixers" come in many varieties. Some just need minor work, such as fresh paint. Others are "tired" and need significant renovation to bring them up to reasonable standards for similar houses in the community.

Still others require significant work, such as a new foundation or structural work. Avoid properties needing major unprofitable upgrades unless you can get a "real steal deal."

If houses don't excite you, there also are fixer-upper apartment buildings, office buildings, warehouses, hotels, and shopping centers. But it's always best to start small and work up to larger properties.

## Why buy a fixer-upper?

There is one primary reason. It is spelled p-r-o-f-i-t. Most home buyers want to purchase a "model home" in near-perfect condition. That's the way to sell your home, but not the way to purchase it if you want to earn a profit.

The smartest home buyers seek residences in need of modest fix-up work. "Look for the right things wrong" should be your motto. That means to search for fix-up houses that need extremely profitable fix-up work, especially painting. Paint is, by far, the most profitable improvement you can make to a house.

The late Bill Nickerson, in his best-seller classic book "How I Turned \$1,000 into \$5 Million in Real Estate" recommended spending \$1 to increase the home's market value by at least \$2. For example, several years ago I owned a three-bedroom, one bathroom house, which I was renovating. One day my contractor "Mac" said, "Why don't you add a second bathroom?" "Where?" I replied. Mac then showed me how a closet and a hallway could be combined into a luxury bathroom. "How much?" I asked. "About \$7,500," he replied. "Go ahead," I said.

That second bathroom turned out beautifully. When I refinanced, I asked the appraiser how much the second bathroom added to the home's value. "About \$15,000" he responded. That's an example of a very profitable improvement.

Additional examples of profitable improvements include new light fixtures, new wall-to-wall carpet or refinishing hardwood floors, fresh landscaping, cleaning, and repainting.

## Develop a tax-free fix-up plan

Whether you want to buy a fix-up house for your personal residence, or as an investment property, your purchase can be tax-free.

1 — Use internal revenue code 121 for your fix-up principal residence. If you want to buy a fix-up house or condo for your personal residence, when you eventually sell it at a profit, Internal Revenue Code 121 can make your fix-up work tax-free.

To qualify, you must own and occupy your principal residence any two of the five years before its sale. The two years need not be continuous. If you qualify, up

to \$250,000 of your sale profits are tax-free (up to \$500,000 if you are married and file a joint tax return).

There are no age limits for this tax break, which can be used over and over without limit. However, IRC 121 cannot be used more often than once every 24 months.

If you repeat the process of buying a fixer house, fixing it up, and living in it at least 24 months before selling at a profit, you will soon become known as a "serial home seller."

2 — Use Internal Revenue code 1031 for your fix-up investment property. If you don't want to live in your fix-up property, then you can qualify for an Internal Revenue Code 1031 tax-deferred exchange. This tax-break applies to virtually any type of property other than your personal residence.

To qualify, you must trade "equal or up" in both market value and in equity without taking out any cash or net mortgage relief (called taxable "boot").

These tax-deferred trades are often called Starker exchanges when the sales proceeds are held by a third-party intermediary beyond the up-traders constructive receipt until a qualifying replacement investment property is located for purchase.

## Attributes of a profitable fixer-upper

Not every fixer-upper house will be profitable. For example, many houses in slum areas are obviously fix-up houses. But they usually won't be profitable unless the neighborhood shows signs of improvement. Here are the five signs of a potentially profitable fixer-upper house:

1 — Buy a sound well-located house without major structural de-

"Fixers" come in many varieties. Some just need minor work, such as fresh paint. Others are "tired" and need significant renovation to bring them up to reasonable standards for similar houses in the community. Still others require significant work, such as a new foundation or structural work.

facts. Based on personal experience fixing up many houses, I suggest looking for a sound, well-located house that doesn't have any major structural defects. Aim for houses that are priced at or below the median sales price for your community.

Avoid luxury fix-up houses because (a) they can be very costly to upgrade and (b) they have a limited resale market appeal.

My best experiences have been with three or four-bedroom fix-up houses in decent neighborhoods. Check the school district quality. No matter how nice the area, if the schools are bad, families will be reluctant to buy there, thus depressing resale potential.

2 — Look for houses needing cosmetic fix-up work. As mentioned earlier, the biggest profits come from houses needing inexpensive cosmetic fix-up work. If a house needs an unprofitable improvement, such as a new roof, factor its cost into the work. Although the work is necessary, it won't add much market value.

3 — Buy wholesale from a motivated seller 25 percent below sales prices of comparable nearby houses. This is perhaps the most important of the attributes of a profitable fixer house. If the seller is highly motivated to sell, perhaps due to a job transfer, illness, unemployment, death in

the family, birth in the family, drug or alcohol problems, management headaches (such as a rental house owned by an absentee out-of-town owner), retirement, inheritance, and family problems,

**210 La Salle**

**SOLD**

*in Piedmont*

For a free list of common mistakes when buying or selling a home call:

**(510) 655-4884**

**Realtor/Consultant**  
maryloumartin@KW.com

**Northbrae**

**Bring Us Your Coins & Help Homeless Women & Children!**

Help us raise money for the Berkeley based Women's Daytime Drop-in Center (WDDC). This non-profit offers critically needed services to homeless women and children, many of whom are abused. by our office at 1600 Hopkins Street (M-F, 9-4 by appt.) and help tip the scales for our coin drive. you can **adopt a family** by helping to meet the needs of a mother and her kid(s) with clothes, kitchen/bath supplies, toys and more! Call us for information.

**www.northbrae.com**

**Northbrae Properties • 526-4336**  
1600 Hopkins Street • Berkeley • 947

## Reid

FROM PAGE B5

laws for 2004. Schedule and location information is available by calling 510-893-9873 or visit [www.rhanc.org](http://www.rhanc.org). Seating is limited and reservations are required.

## HABITAT HELP

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Northern California donated \$131,567 to Habitat for Humanity. The donation resulted from a community-wide raffle. This year's program marked the 10th year that CB sponsored Habitat for Humanity. The funds go towards the overall year-end donation benefiting area Habitat construction projects. If you would like to help Habitat for Humanity contact your nearest Coldwell Banker office.

## TECH HELP

CAR's Tech Hotline, which offers free, live help from real estate technology experts has a new toll-free

number for members to call. Available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the CAR Tech Hotline has answers to questions about computer operating systems (such as Microsoft Windows, Macintosh, or Palm); popular software, including Top Producer, FileMaker, Microsoft's Office suite, Internet browsers, FrontPage and others; Internet access; e-mail applications; and more. (MLS hardware or software is not supported by the hotline.) The new phone number is (800) 773-8630.

## PRUDENTIAL AFFILIATION

Prudential California Realty (PCR) announced its affiliation with The Realty Alliance, a real estate networking and think tank group. This will enable PCR to benchmark their technology, programs and services. The Realty Alliance offers its members a curriculum of ongoing informative meetings and seminars. To learn more visit the Web site at [www.pruweb.com](http://www.pruweb.com).

## RE/MAX RETIREES

There's good news for retiring

Re/Max agents. In response to a growing number of requests, RE/Max International has created the RE/Max Alumni Program. As an alumnus, former associates can attend conventions, enjoy supplier discounts and retain some of the other benefits. Check it out at [www.remax.net](http://www.remax.net).

## ETHICS DEADLINE

Don't wait to meet the National Association of Realtors ethics class requirement. The deadline is Dec. 31. The course stresses familiarity with the Code of Ethics and also an understanding of how the code applies to your business. Contact your local association for class information. Additionally, Realtor.org offers a free, online course.

## BUSINESS TIPS

Realtor Online Magazine is available to help with your real estate business. Each month there is new content at the Web site [www.realtor.org/realmag](http://www.realtor.org/realmag). You'll find tips on FSBOs, broker opens, proving your worth and much more. You

can also request a business tips newsletter sent directly to your e-mail box.

## WHO'S WHO?

There's a lot of talent in Alameda. An awful lot of that talent presented itself recently at the Alameda Association of Realtors Annual Inaugural. The entertainment consisted of actors, singers and dancers, some Realtors and some Affiliates. Kudos to all involved.

## WHAT'S WHAT??

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an e-mail to [bobbierid@mindspring.com](mailto:bobbierid@mindspring.com). Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

## PLEASE RECYCLE.

**774 Eagle Ave ~ Alameda**

**Fabulous 2 bedroom Craftsman just listed. Refinished hardwood floors, new linoleum in kitchen, fireplace, box beamed ceiling in living room. Level front and rear yard areas. Convenient location, close to shopping.**

**Open Sunday 2-4:30 Priced at \$419,000!**

For further information contact:  
**Amberson "Mac" McCulloch**  
Certified Residential Broker  
Office (510) 337-8670  
Voice Mail (510) 287-2579

Visit [www.mackmann.com](http://www.mackmann.com)

**Prudential California Realty**  
660-A Central Avenue, Alameda

**OPEN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2-4PM**

*New Listing!*

**2410 Byron Street, Berkeley**

- Sophisticated Craftsman • 2 Bedroom, 1 bath • Newer kitchen & bath
- Separate studio/office • Quiet street, close to everything

**Offered at \$483,000**

**Jack McPhail**  
Broker Associate  
(510) 338-1336

**The GRUBB Co.**

**5125 Harbord Drive, Upper Rockridge**  
Originally offered at \$849,000

**ELIZABETH DICKSON**  
Represented the Seller  
339.0400/218  
[dickson@grubbco.com](mailto:dickson@grubbco.com)

**DANA COHEN**  
Represented the Buyer  
339.0400/348  
[dcohen@grubbco.com](mailto:dcohen@grubbco.com)

**A sampling of our current listings:**

	<b>El Sobrante</b> Beautiful, well maintained 3br/2ba home in a great location. Bonus family room; huge back yard with big deck & views. 2 car s/s garage. New paint inside & out. Move-in condition. \$424,500
	<b>Diamond District - Oakland</b> Handsome 3-unit building on large lot with plenty of off street parking. Two-bedroom unit on top floor and one-bedroom unit on lower floor will be vacant at close of escrow. Hardwood floors; two fireplaces. \$589,000
	<b>Russian Hill</b> Great pied-a-terre. Remodeled studio with walk-out balcony and panoramic Bay views. 1 car parking, 24-hour door person, on-site manager. Ideal location near Ghirardelli Sq., the Cannery, Fisherman's wharf, restaurants shops and transportation. \$249,900

**Prudential California Realty**  
415-762-5000



# Hills Newspapers: Your number one source for up-to-date East Bay real estate information.

## The GRUBB Co.



### 6656 Churing Cross Road

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This spacious Hiller Highlands townhome is an exceptional value. The main level features hardwood floors, a modern open floorplan, vaulted ceilings, good natural light and hill views.

Offered at \$599,000

SHERRY BENNINGER

OFFICE: 510.339.0400/240

SherryBenninger@aol.com

GRUBBCO.COM

### 488 Crescent Street, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2-4:30PM



### Grand Lake Storybook Charmer

• 3 Bedroom, 1+ Bath • Rich Architectural Detail • Formal Dining Room, Hardwood Floors • Large Level Yard • Abundant Storage • Detached Garage • Convenient to Restaurants, Movies, Coffee, Shopping & Transportation

Offered at \$499,000



Jeffrey Himmel

Senior Sales Consultant

(510) 338-1307

www.jeffreyhimmel.com



OMAC Real Estate

just ask our clients

pacunion.com

## The GRUBB Co.



### 6401 Snake Road, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Wonderful Montclair home with dramatic Golden Gate Bridge view. Incredible quality finishes including granite, cherry wood, and bamboo. Two bedrooms, two baths, fireplace in living room, and two-car garage.

Offered at \$599,000

ANNE FESTE

OFFICE: 339.0400/371

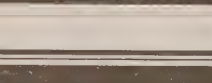
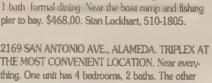
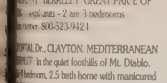
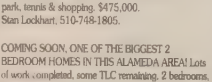
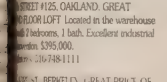
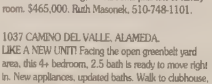
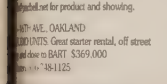
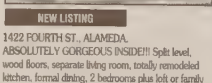
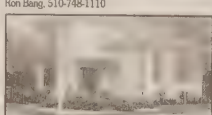
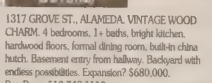
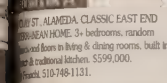
afeste@grubbc.com

GRUBBCO.COM

## Gallop & Lindsey, Inc. REALTORS

521-8181

523-1010



## RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

### SANTA ON SOLANO!



Parents, bring your cameras - come meet Santa Claus at Red Oak Realty from 11am to 1pm, Saturday December 13th!  
1891 Solano Avenue, Berkeley  
510-527-3387

Wishing you the best this holiday season!  
- Red Oak Realty

## CASTLE ROCK REALTY

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
OF  
HOMES & APARTMENTS



528-9292

DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKERS

## marvin gardens real estate

<p><b>El Cerrito, 3440 Yosemite</b> \$825,000 Two story four-plex. Excellent condition, four blocks to Plaza BART. 2 bedroom, 1 bath identical units, 4 carports, laundry room.</p> <p>Open Sunday 2-4 Joan Underwood 559-2911</p>	<p><b>Richmond View, 5419 Garvin Ave.</b> \$299,000 HOLIDAY SPECIAL! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Fresh paint, refinished hardwood floors, big level yard, attached garage, nice street, friendly block! Don't miss!</p> <p>Open Sunday 2-4 Meridee Carter 527-2700 x39</p>	<p><b>Albany, 1052 Ordway St.</b> \$529,000 Wonderful 2-bedroom charmer in fabulous location! Gleaming hardwood floors, fresh paint inside &amp; out, dining area with built-ins, fireplace, big kitchen w/ tiled counters and floors, lush landscaped yard. Close to Monterey Market.</p> <p>Open Sunday 2-4 Dee Plunkett 559-2933</p>
<p><b>El Cerrito, 1936 Downey Place</b> \$479,000 Home for the Holidays! Well maintained mid-century home. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all on one level. Hardwood floors. View from 1 bedroom. Convenient to BART. Walk to Canyon Trail Park.</p> <p>Open Sunday 2-4 Diana Mender 559-2937</p>	<p>7502 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito (510) 527-9111</p> <p>289 Arlington Ave., Kensington (510) 524-0800</p> <p>1577 Solano Ave., Berkeley (510) 527-2700</p> <p>Visit our web site at www.marvingardens.com</p>	

## WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS 1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND • 531-7000

<p><b>OPEN 2-4:30</b></p> <p><b>ADAMS</b> \$479,000 Adorable 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms. Spacious living area adjacent to efficient galley kitchen. Level yard with large garden. Backyard patio for relaxing. Off street parking.</p> <p>Phyllis 531-7000x292</p>	<p><b>BY APPOINTMENT</b></p> <p><b>NEW PANORAMIC BAY VIEW HOME</b> \$1,395,000 Montclair. Stately new home. Five plus bedrooms, four and a half baths. Media room, rumpus room, library, formal living and dining rooms. Level front yard area.</p> <p>David Hennigan 531-7000x229</p>	<p><b>BY APPOINTMENT</b></p> <p><b>CHARMING BUNGALOW</b> \$329,000 Fruitvale. 2BD/1BA w/hdwd flrs, split-level floor plan, living room w/fireplace, formal dining room, w/French doors, updated kitchen &amp; artsy tile bath, att. garage plus basement, level yard &amp; deck. Kate Phillips 531-7000x228</p>	<p><b>INCOME PROPERTIES</b></p> <p><b>SIX UNITS</b> \$825,000 North Berkeley. Off Shattuck Avenue. Walking distance to CAL. Owners unit vacant! Hardwood floors, tile kitchen, good parking, top locale. Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235</p> <p><b>MIXED UNITS</b> \$795,000 Oakland. Four 1BD residential units over two commercial storefronts. Five parking spaces off street. Perfect live-work setup. Foundation, electrical roof, plumbing has been redone. Near International Blvd. &amp; 14th Avenue. Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235</p> <p><b>FOUR PLEX FOR SALE</b> \$555,000 Oakland. Well located on Harrison Street - four 1BD units with decks. Lovely older building with interesting details. Beth DeAtley 531-7000x234</p>
<p><b>BY APPOINTMENT</b></p> <p><b>VERNON STREET</b> \$245,000 Point, 1BD/1BA. Spacious top floor unit with wrap-around Mt. Tam, Marin &amp; San Francisco! lots of beautiful plants on large balcony. Cathedral ceiling in wood burning fireplace, plenty of closet space. All appliances paint &amp; carpet. Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238</p>	<p><b>PRICE REDUCED! MOVE RIGHT IN!</b> \$420,000 North Oakland. Best value in neighborhood. 3BD, 2BA, family room, living room, dining room, fireplace, hdwd floors, 2-car garage, rear yard w/fruit trees, freshly painted. Must see! Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235</p>	<p><b>DARLING 3BD/1BA</b> \$299,000 San Antonio District. Large living room &amp; formal dining room with built-ins, large kitchen, nice backyard, attached garage. As Is Sale - needs work. Chris Christensen 531-7000x242</p>	<p><b>TAHOE PROPERTIES</b></p> <p><b>SPECTACULAR DOLLAR POINT LAKEFRONT</b> \$6,300,000 Offered for the first time on the open market, updated &amp; modernized in 1999 is ready for your special touch. This 5BD/4.5BA home takes advantage of the unique surroundings &amp; offers breathtaking panoramic views from every room. More info on www.tahoenorthwestsales.com. Pat Lucas 800-858-8463</p> <p><b>IMAGINE...THE PERFECT TAHOE HOME</b> \$759,000 Stunning great room w/huge wood windows two eight foot glass doors leading to a large south facing deck. Grand staircase off deck leads to a fabulous backyard, kitchen w/granite counter tops, shaker style cabinets with lighting &amp; chef's pantry. The great room &amp; kitchen have distressed hickory wood floors. Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463</p> <p><b>DELIGHTFUL EASY LIVING</b> \$420,000 This charming Agate Bay home features an airy open living area with enough space for a home office, &amp; dining area. Kitchen has tile throughout w/attractive appliances. Oversized 2-car garage, view of the lake too. Pat Lucas or Carla Werner 800-858-2463</p>
<p><b>NEW MEDITERRANEAN</b> \$1,900,000 Hills. Four BD, three full BA, view of bay, wrap-around porch, lot next door. Gourmet kitchen w/living room &amp; dining, huge wine cellar.</p> <p>Phyllis 531-7000x295</p>	<p><b>LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION</b> \$369,000 Laurel. Darling house w/fenced yard for pets or gardening at condo price. Rare opportunity. 2BD/1.5BA. eat-in kitchen with Wedgwood stove. Noll Davis 531-7000x263</p>	<p><b>JUST LISTED</b> \$288,000 Richmond. Cute starter bungalow. Three bedrooms, one bath, close to shopping and transportation. Halda Novelo 206-2120</p>	<p><b>RIDGEWOOD HIGHLANDS CHALET</b> \$359,000 Three bedrooms plus loft, two bathrooms, bright &amp; open floor plan, &amp; great location in a quiet neighborhood. Close to Tahoe City with tons of potential. Carrie Talar &amp; Jim Plumbbridge 800-858-2463</p>



## WEEKLY SALES

### ALAMEDA

3029 Alta Vista - \$434,000  
2708 Central Av - \$593,000  
460 Cola Ballena - \$425,000  
108 Cork Rd - \$700,000  
1029 Court St - \$484,000  
141 Creedon Cr - \$1,500,000  
302 Holly Oak Ln - \$545,000  
2815 Marina Dr - \$870,000  
26 Oak Park Dr - \$465,000  
1308 Park Av - \$501,000  
2132 San Antonio - \$685,000  
616 Sandalwood Isle - \$825,000  
933 Shoreline 305 - \$392,000  
3030 Thompson Av - \$685,000  
1305 Webster C305 - \$215,000

### ALBANY

721 Adams St - \$428,000  
1017 Stannage - \$685,000

### BERKELEY

861 Arlington Av - \$872,500  
1319 Blake St - \$394,000  
2323 Browning St - \$449,000  
1212 Colusa Av - \$691,000  
667 Colusa Av - \$618,000  
1373 Francisco St - \$537,500  
1634 Francisco St - \$489,000

1150 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$885,000  
739 Grizzly Peak - \$587,000  
2910 Hillegass 4 - \$270,000  
1660 Lincoln St - \$710,000  
2932 Pine Av - \$551,000  
22 San Mateo - \$975,000  
565 Santa Clara Av - \$742,500  
2650 Shasta Rd - \$737,500  
1406 Stannage Av - \$378,000  
2815 Stanton St - \$481,000  
3 Vine Ln - \$975,000

### EL CERRITO

1609 Everett St - \$470,000  
933 Liberty St - \$450,000  
5407 MacDonald - \$475,000  
2621 Monte Vista - \$605,000  
5229 Potrero Av - \$394,000  
210 Ramona Av - \$445,500  
7709 Ricardo Ct - \$670,000  
1428 Richmond St - \$398,500  
827 Richmond St - \$425,000

### EL SOBRANTE

890 Bridgeway Cr - \$603,500  
894 Bridgeway Cr - \$596,500  
330 Joan Vista St - \$409,000  
347 Joan Vista St - \$350,000  
4001 La Colina Rd - \$275,500

5809 Nottingham Dr - \$405,000  
5300 Ridgeview D6 - \$168,000  
4702 SP Dam Rd - \$315,000

### EMERYVILLE

887 44th St - \$384,000  
866 55th St - \$290,000  
1200 65th St #228 - \$490,000  
971 Arlington Av - \$390,000  
6363 Christie 2707 - \$655,000  
8 Commodore C356 - \$255,000  
4 Commodore D444 - \$250,000  
201 Liquid Sugar Dr - \$404,000  
5514 Market St - \$325,000

### KENSINGTON

40 Edgcroft - \$850,000

### OAKLAND

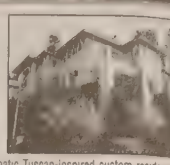
928 106th Av - \$220,000  
1264 107th St - \$278,000  
662 26th St - \$230,000  
2022 38th Av - \$290,000  
1972 40th Av - \$338,000  
404 44th St - \$489,000  
1517 52nd Av - \$410,000  
3024 60th Av - \$359,000  
1616 64th Av - \$250,000

1151 78th Av - \$237,000  
2616 78th Av - \$290,000  
2421 80th Av - \$289,000  
1645 82nd Av - \$195,000  
2043 82nd Av - \$335,000  
1962 83rd Av - \$276,000  
1956 85th Av - \$210,000  
965 88th Av - \$216,000  
1351 92nd Av - \$235,000  
359 98th Av - \$285,000  
3075 Arizona St - \$513,000  
4273 Atlas Av - \$574,000  
4290 Atlas Av - \$541,000  
8430 B St - \$265,000  
4101 Balfour Av - \$560,000  
4161 Balfour Av - \$743,000  
389 Belmont 408 - \$383,000  
2706 Best Av - \$425,000  
13087 Brookpark - \$640,000  
9620 Burr St - \$206,000  
2838 Burton Dr - \$606,000  
9908 C St - \$283,000  
280 Caldecott 315 - \$462,000  
96 Camelford Pl - \$650,000  
5969 Canning St - \$430,000  
6008 Canning St - \$420,000  
3843 Canon Av - \$270,000  
3952 Canon Av - \$441,000

See SALES, Page B10

## THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE

**Prudential California**




This 3BR/3BA dramatic Tuscan-inspired custom residence features many beautiful features and classic design. Balconies, the Oakland Hills and Mt. Tam. Gourmet kitchen with granite room features a two-way fireplace. Beautiful den with hardwood floors & beautiful tiles grace the main level. Close to free

**Damien O'Rourke**  
(925) 254-0440

**Prudential**  
California Realty  
www.prudential.com

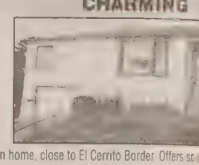
## 2 New Listings

**225 S. 23RD ST., RICHMOND**



#467 - 3 bedroom, 2 bath with fireplace in living room. Home at very reasonable detached utility room in a huge backyard with lots of covered storage.

**CHARMING**



#490 - 2 bedroom home, close to El Cerrito Border. Offers a completely updated kitchen, separate laundry room, large deck & superb backyard with mature trees. Plus S.F. Bay View

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**El Cerrito (510) 510-1010**  
**Richmond (510) 510-1010**  
**Pinole (510) 510-1010**

**BARTELS-REALTORS®**  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated  
www.bartelsrealty.com

## GRANITE KITCHEN COUNTERS

**FREE**  
In-Home  
Estimate

**INSTALLED \$1499.00**  
AS LOW AS

(Based on 16 L.I.N. FT w/ Top Mount Sink)

- Verde Butterfly • Juparana
- Baltic Brown • Yellow
- Almond Mauve • Golden Leaf
- Black Impala • Green Ventura

**Over 100**  
Colors to Choose



**ONE STOP**  
**SHOP**

451 McCormick Street, San Leandro

Tel 510 638-6542 • Fax 510 638-6157

E-mail omegastonefabrication@yahoo.com

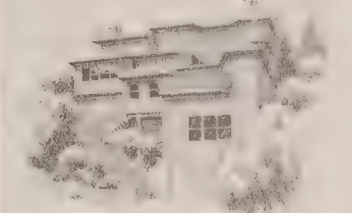
**New Price!**

### Claremont Hills

7235 Buckingham Blvd., Oakland  
3 Bed/2 Bath

New price! Rich woods, cathedral ceilings and spacious rooms in this Laal shingle contemporary home. Non-conforming space with separate entry too! Don't miss this one!

Offered at \$849,000



**Karen Lum**

Realtor

510.339.4776 Direct

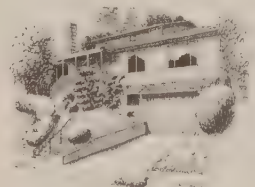
karenlum@earthlink.net

www.karenlum.com



Open Sunday

**NORTH BERKELEY \$1,650,000**  
**1705 LA LOMA AVE.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Outstanding value! Award-winning renovation of a unique, historic home. Maybeck & White, 1906. 2nd unit/writer's retreat. SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gini Erck x1339



**PIEDMONT \$1,599,000**  
**8 GLEN ALPINE RD.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Handsomely remodeled contemporary in impeccable Piedmont neighborhood. 5BR/4.5 BA, family room, level out to sunny patios & garden. Debi Fitzgerald x1306



**PIEDMONT \$1,400,000**  
**1224 ASHMOUNT AVE.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Restoration opportunity. Classic English Tudor built in 1926 & 1st time on market. Grand living room & library, 4+BR/2.5BA. Level out yard. Keith Tollas x1382

**CROCKER HIGHLAND \$1,195,000**  
**818 NORTHVALE RD.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Grand 7BR/4BA traditional w/refinished hwd floors, newly landscaped large level yard, fresh paint in & out. Near shopping & transportation. Joanna Hirsch x1366

## PACIFIC UNION

**GMAC Real Estate**

www.pacunion.com



Open Sunday

**OAKLAND HILLS \$1,025,000**  
**601 VIA RIALTO RD.** (Sat/Sun 1-5)  
New 4BR/3BA w/great bay vws, pleasant backyard, high ceilings, gourmet kit with hwd cabinetry & designer baths. Jennie Planigan x1354, David Ichikawa x1331



**BERKELEY \$899,000**  
**1959 SAN ANTONIO** (Open 2-4:30)  
Enchanting 1926 Mediterranean hideaway. Romantic courtyard entry, 3BR/2BA, formal dining room, fireplace & big bay views. Unique & special. Jeanine Weller x1329

**SAN FRANCISCO \$649,000**  
**2 FALLON PL. #57** (Open 2-4:30)  
Russian Hill. 2BR/1BA with great views of Nob Hill, downtown and the Bay Bridge. Large deck, tennis, storage, 2 garage parking+. Ashley O'Neill x1368



Open Sunday

**CROCKER HIGHLAND \$679,000**  
**961 PARK LANE** (Open 2-4:30)  
4BR/3BA fixer. Soaring wood ceilings, FDR, hwd flrs and a peak of the bay. Built in 1938. Madalyn Mitchell x1385



**PIEDMONT AVENUE \$529,000**  
**4277 GILBERT ST.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Charming bungalow. Updated kit, FR & BA. 2+BR, leaded glass windows, hwd flrs, box beamed ceilings, lvl backyard w/separate study. Ashley O'Neill x1368



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$519,000**  
**3130 GUIDO ST.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Charming, spacious traditional. Woodsy area. Sunny, upgraded kit, hardwood flrs, deep rear yd w/deck. Diane McCan x1352



Open Sunday

**GRAND LAKE \$499,000**  
**488 CRESCENT ST.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Storybook Charming. 3BR/1+BA. Rich architectural details. Lrg lvl yard, near shops & transportation. Jeffrey Himmel x1307



**BERKELEY \$485,000**  
**2410 BYRON ST.** (Open 2-4)  
New listing! Sophisticated craftsman. 2BR/1BA. Newer kit & BA, sep studio/office. Quiet street, near everything. Jack McPhail x1336



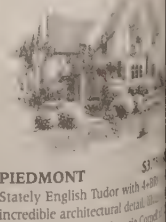
**BERKELEY \$459,000**  
**1451 VIRGINIA ST.** (Open 2-4:30)  
New listing! Charming, light-filled 2+BR/1BA, grt architectural details including leaded glass built-ins & beamed cathedral ceiling. Serene garden. Leslie Avant x1341



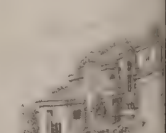
**OAKLAND**  
**4651 FAIR AVE.**  
Warm & delightful 2BR/1BA with view from the back. Dining + jazzy outdoor kit & patio area. Klemmer x1314 & Dick Colton



**PIEDMONT**  
Magnificent English w/ detail on 2/3 acre level land, 4 bedrooms, 6+BR, pool. Georgia Conrad



**PIEDMONT**  
Stately English Tudor with 4+BR, incredible architectural detail, large living room & guest suite. Georgia Conrad



**OAKLAND HILLS**  
Fabulous Bay views! 4BR/2BA, value! Granite slab counters, cabinets, high ceilings, designer rooms & fireplace. David Klemmer

Your San Francisco Bay Area Real Estate Resource

510.339.6460

1900 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA



# The key to home security

Although burglary occurs more than 2 million times each year in the United States, home defense is easier than you may think. Consider these tips from safety experts:

1. The key to preventing burglaries is to lock your home's entrances during the day and night.
2. Use three burglar-resistant doors and windows.
3. Use ANS Grade-One deadbolt locks on all exterior entrances. Use solid-core doors and secure them with top-quality door hardware.
4. Use motion-activated lighting on porches and yards. The animation of the light creates a psychological barrier for criminals.
5. Use glass brick around entrances and secure grates onto porches. Where building codes allow, install double cylinder locks that need to be opened from the inside as well as the outside.

5. Maintain the appearance of occupancy when away using timers on lights, televisions and radios. Have a neighbor pick up mail and newspapers.

6. Start a Neighborhood Watch and get to know your neighbors' names and faces.

7. Never hide keys under a doormat, in planters or taped above the door jamb. Only leave keys with trusted neighbors or family.

8. Inform police and neighbors about strangers in private yards or near windows. Call 911 if an emergency threatens human life or property.

9. Empty TV, computer and stereo boxes in the trash alert criminals to new purchases they may be tempted to steal.

10. New homeowners should rekey or replace all exterior locks so former owners don't have access. Only 23 percent of new homeowners change the locks to their new home.

Contact the real estate editor at 510-748-1655

or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com.

## YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS... AND A FIXER NEAR BERKELEY.



1012 63rd, North Oakland  
Open Sunday 2-4:30

Light Craftsman fixer with enormous potential. 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, a large yard, and even a potential 1 bedroom in-law unit. And, oh yes, a chimney for Santa.

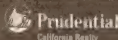
Offered at \$300,000 "as-is"



"Top Producer, Berkeley Office"

Barbara Reynolds.com • telephone: 510-868-1487

BARBARA REYNOLDS



## BE KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT. RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.



### The Heart of Desirable Adams Point

Beautiful & spacious 2-level, 2BR/1.5 BA townhome. Vaulted ceilings, lg balcony, fireplace, A/C, laundry in unit, lg storage room, 2 parking, low dues in modern fourplex.

**\$385,000!!!**

347 Perkins Street: 1st open: Sat & Sun 2-4:00 PM



David Gunderman &  
Andrew Raskopf, Realtors

510-205-3575

Kane & Associates



## For an Unbeatable Home Equity Line

Apply for a **Bank of Alameda Home Equity Line of Credit** for \$250,000 or less, before February 15th, 2004 and enjoy an initial rate of only

**3.75% APR\***

for the first year.

To apply today, please call:

**Ana Long 510-748-8905 or**

**Kathy Shaughnessy 510-748-8916**

(Offer applies to new borrowers only)

www.BankofAlameda.com



## THORNWALL Properties

Innovative, Caring Professionals



**\$399,000**

**SUN LIT CONDO IN GREAT LOCATION!**

1 BR, 1 BA, Fireplace, and a Private Pat.

510 • 848 • 1950

www.thornwallproperties.com

Serving

the

East

Bay

since

1984

Open Sunday 2-4:30



**2335 Edwards St., Berkeley**

This spacious, updated home has vintage charm and lovely fenced yards, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace and a solarium with hot tub.

Offered at \$600,000



**KELLY DEAL**

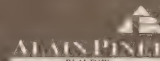
OFFICE 510.649.1111

DIRECT 510.484.4300

kdeal@apr.com

2 THEATRE SQUARE, STE. 315  
ORINDA, CA

Now Search MLS Listings at [www.apr.com](http://www.apr.com)



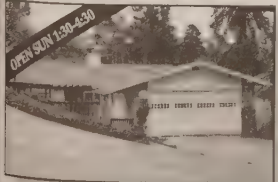
## HERITAGE REAL ESTATE FINE HOMES & ESTATES



**MONTCLAIR HILLS \$629,000**

Meticulously done 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath charmer with Au Pair. Hardwood & slate floors, granite & maple kitchen, copper fireplace, expansive garden & decks areas with Koi mountain pond and large spa.

DEBORAH RINEY



**PIEDMONT PINES \$649,000**

"New Listing" Home Sweet Home. Level patio in, level out deck and private garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths (home office) dining, breakfast, hardwood flooring, master suite with home bay view. Large family room and dark room. Huge storage areas. Attached double garage.

HAL CASTLE



**LAFAYETTE \$829,500**

Classic Lafayette listing. 3 bedroom, 2 bath recently remodeled inside. Views, pool, and wooded lot. New paint throughout. Minutes to BART, shopping and trails. 925-935-9100

BILL SKARADA



**OAKLAND \$269,000**

A house for a condo price! Hardwood floors, fireplace, built-ins, stained glass windows. Freshly painted interior. On a cul-de-sac. Home for the holidays!

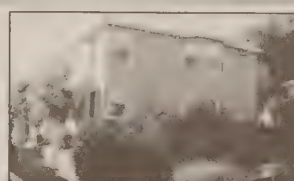
DEBORAH RINEY



**LAKE MERRITT \$329,000**

WALK TO BART & CHINATOWN! Huge luxurious 1,600+ sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath hi-rise apartment. Light & airy, new paint and carpet. 24 hour security with doorman. Includes cable and heat! Real value

D.C. HODGES



**OAKLAND \$579,000**

Super sharp 4-plex. One bedroom, one bath units, 3-car garages + 2 parking spaces. Updated water, furnaces, windows and baths. Separate gas/electric/water meters

DEBORAH RINEY



**MONTCLAIR \$1,450,000**

First showing - Fantastic contemporary! Dramatic floor plan unlike any new home built in years. 4,000+ sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath. Chef's kitchen with cherry wood cabinets and built-ins. Living room with 28' ceilings. Large master suite and bath. 3 patios, rear yard. Quiet cul-de-sac. Well worth seeing

MEL COPLAND



**OAKLAND \$349,000**

Duplex. Cute 20's Spanish Deco charmer. Two 1 bedroom, 1 bath units. Everything redone in '93 with permits updated baths and kitchens. Nice fenced backyard area with patio.

DEBORAH RINEY



**TEMESCAL \$380,000**

Come All Ye Urbanites to a cheerful, architecturally interesting 1907 2-story home. Big fenced back yard for avid gardeners. 3 bedroom, 1+ bath, small fireplace flanked by big built-ins! Quaint kitchen + laundry porch. Walk to BART Piedmont Avenue!

HELEN NICHOLAS



**LAFAYETTE \$1,375,000**

Craftsmanship, grace and function combine elegantly in this custom home reminiscent of a French chateau. Australian oak floors. Stunning kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite slab counters. Dacor/Bosch appliances. Wine cellar. 925-935-9100

The Schlanders

## Tidings of Comfort and Toys!



Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of our four offices or to any Heritage Real Estate open house this month! All toys donated to underserved & needy children from Bay Area Crisis Nursery



Your community has been here since 1969. Warm holiday wishes from our family to yours.

**510.339.8900**

6211 La Salle Avenue • Oakland, CA 94611 • [www.heritagerealestate.com](http://www.heritagerealestate.com)

DANVILLE • 925.314.1500

LAFAYETTE • 925.935.9100

LIVERMORE • 925.455.0505



Sales

FROM PAGE B8

4015 Carrington - \$296,000  
2460 Casa Ct - \$250,000  
7349 Circle Hill - \$400,000  
489 Clara St - \$247,000  
8009 Coach Dr - \$687,000  
2842 Coolidge Av - \$355,000  
9280 Coral Rd - \$260,000  
5610 Denton Pl - \$1,380,000  
6 Dorothy Pl - \$910,000  
2032 East 22nd St - \$355,000  
3312 East 22nd St - \$182,000  
825 East 23rd St - \$280,000  
1447 East 38th St - \$480,000  
2900 Eastman Av - \$340,000  
2555 El Caminito - \$565,000  
2667 Fisher Av - \$269,000  
3990 Forest Hill - \$565,000  
763 Franklin 323 - \$125,000  
2875 Glenbrook 209 - \$449,000  
3700 Glen Pl Road - \$545,000  
8367 Golf Links Rd - \$289,000  
4321 Gordon St - \$350,000  
3644 Hageman Av - \$308,000  
7145 Homewood Dr - \$669,000  
1940 Irving Av - \$368,000  
216 Lee St - \$301,000  
325 Lenox Av #502 - \$340,000  
3767 Lundholm Av - \$440,000  
2901 MacArthur 109 - \$205,000  
3009 Madeline St - \$504,500  
3225 Madera Av - \$430,000

387 Marlow Dr - \$555,000  
3028 MLK Jr Wy - \$320,000  
3728 McClelland - \$320,000  
6310 Monadnock - \$275,000  
3585 Monterey Bl - \$620,000  
419 North St - \$485,000  
311 Oak St #114 - \$430,000  
311 Oak St #312 - \$433,000  
311 Oak St #729 - \$434,000  
425 Orange 305 - \$189,000  
10801 Packard St - \$326,000  
10805 Packard St - \$340,000  
10807 Packard St - \$358,500  
10868 Peerless Ct - \$399,000  
3505 Pennington Av - \$280,000  
4794 Redding St - \$414,000  
2430 Siesta Ln - \$235,000  
2455 Siesta Ln - \$250,000  
8767 Skyline Bl - \$700,000  
5701 Snake Rd - \$570,000  
10947 Star Ct - \$438,000  
7985 Sunkist Dr - \$295,000  
1069 Trestle Glen - \$678,000  
400 Wayne Av #4 - \$363,000  
400 Wayne Av #7 - \$391,000  
482 Wesley Av - \$402,000  
6245 Westover Dr - \$530,000  
8117 Winthrop St - \$325,000  
3406 Wyman St - \$430,000

PIEDMONT

18 Blair Av - \$808,000  
236 Bonita Av - \$1,215,000  
210 Palm Dr - \$1,055,000  
230 Park View - \$750,000

940 Rose Av - \$745,000

RICHMOND

270 6th St - \$345,000  
664 7th St - \$240,000  
2926 Alta Mira Dr - \$357,000

2400 Andrade Av - \$329,500  
3250 Annapolis - \$351,000  
5018 Buckboard - \$465,000  
2408 Bush Av - \$285,000  
520 Civic Center St - \$309,000

See SALES, Page B11

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS

**BAKELEY LOT**

1140 Wildcat Canyon Road  
Berkeley

Build your new home in Park Hills! Beautiful Canyon and Tilden Park views from this private site. Survey and soil report available.  
Offered at \$300,000

**ANNIE WALRAND**  
OFFICE: 652.2133/446  
awalrand@grubbco.com  
GRUBBCO.COM

**Jack London Square Bath**  
Luxury Kitchen and Bath Fixtures With Free Delivery

STATIONERY  
www.downtownstationery.com  
130 WILSON STREET, SUITE 100 OAKLAND, CA

**Open Sunday 1-4**

1834 Arch Street, Berkeley, 94709  
Beautiful three story Tudor condo in historic Berkeley. This two bedroom unit has the space and feel of a single home. The new granite and tile kitchen is special. Just minutes to UC, shopping and downtown.

**Offered at \$535,000**

Take a virtual tour of this property at [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com)

**Prudential Carol Heath-Kim**  
California Realty  
(510) 525-2346  
carolheathkim.realtor.com

**RED OAK REALTY**

**SANTA ON SOLANO**

Parents, come meet Santa Claus!  
Oak Realty from 11am to 5pm  
Saturday December 13th  
1891 Solano Avenue, Suite 100  
510-527-3381

Wishing you the best this holiday season!  
- Red Oak Realty

**SP Security Pacific Real Estate**  
3223 Olmsted Drive, Suite 100  
510-222-8877

**EL CERRITO**

FABULOUS CUSTOM HOME W/ IN-LAW IN THE HILLS  
4BR 3BA w/ three 1BR 1BA in-law apt, downstairs 4 living areas, Grand living room, formal dining room, huge family room, granite cherrywood floors, new roof, clear pest report, updated kitchen, master suite, attached 2 car garage w/ int. access & extra off street parking.  
1315 Rifle Range  
[www.carladelazoppa.com](http://www.carladelazoppa.com) 510-662-8558

**RICHMOND VIEW**

ON TOP OF THE WORLD!  
4BR 3BA Custom beauty with soaring ceilings, flowing floor plan, double granite and tile appointments! Tranquil, serene, and quiet setting.  
#03029235  
1519 Barth Ave.  
[www.cynthiaburke.com](http://www.cynthiaburke.com) 510-662-8528

**PT. RICHMOND**

VACANT AND READY TO MOVE IN TO  
2BR 2BA condo in Bay Front in Marina Bay. Built in 1998, the charming  
delight. #30001489  
Carylon Dopp 510-662-8498

**Security Pacific**  
Wishes Everyone  
A Very  
Holiday Season!

Visit our website - <http://www.spre.com>

Market Indicator*		CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE				Advertisement Information by INFOTRAK National Data Services	
Last wk 5.875	This wk 5.750	www.mtgeinfo.com/cct					
COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Rates as of 12/09/03 COMMENTS		
Amerisave Mortgage Corp. 868-514-7283 DOC# 6038592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.000 5.713...40	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.696...40	3/1 ARM 3.125...1.000 3.987...40	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.000 5.210...40	Best rates & lowest fees guaranteed or we pay \$300! Visit <a href="http://www.amerisave.com">www.amerisave.com</a> today to search rates.		
Bank of America 877-88-FIXED Fees=\$1606	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.000 5.713...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.000 5.723...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.000 4.932...30	6 Mo Interest Only 2.750...1.000 2.883...30	100% Financing Available - Fast Closings No Cost for Appraisal - Refinance Today! Low/Moderate Income Programs Available		
Bank of America Mortgage 925-688-3760 Fees=\$1406	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.185 5.807...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.369 5.816...30	6 month ARM 3.000*...0.275 3.091...30	3/1 ARM 4.000*...0.886 3.948...30	*Purchase only. Call for refinance Rates Let us help you obtain your down payment		
BayCal Financial Corp. 408-719-6800 DRE# 0115696 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.250 5.500...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.250 5.788...30	5/1 ARM Jmb IO 4.625...0.000 4.672...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo IO 4.125...0.000 4.170...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL & 6 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock NEW Construct on Home PUR		
California Mtge. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI x600 DRE# 0117068 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.716...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.000 4.161...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...0.000 4.662...30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM		
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 0087444 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.790...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.160...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.540...30	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan Rates change daily, call for latest rate We are here to satisfy your needs		
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 0117028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.250 5.552...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.907...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.500...1.375 3.869...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...1.250 4.415...30	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit.		
Custom Mortgage Solutions 800-259-9510 DOC# 6038694 Fees=\$1145	30-yr Fixed 5.375...0.625 5.495...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.500 5.894...35	15-yr Fixed 4.750...0.500 4.9...35	CODI 30 yr ARM 1.194*...0.000 4.880...60	Purchase, Refinance or Cashout. CODI COFI, COSI. Open 7 Days. *Potential Neg-Am		
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1690	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.550...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...2.000 5.749...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...2.000 4.999...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000...2.000 5.399...30	Apply online at <a href="http://www.ditech.com">www.ditech.com</a> . -Your mortgage solution. Delivered!		
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC #6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.375...2.000 5.585...60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.875 5.939...60	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.250...1.000 4.591...45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at <a href="http://www.downeysavings.com">www.downeysavings.com</a>		
eSource Mortgage, Inc. 888-221-9787 DOC# 6038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.750 5.560...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...2.000 5.700...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375...2.000 4.580...30	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 3.340...60	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE *Pot neg am Pics. online @ <a href="http://www.lendia.com">www.lendia.com</a>		
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$1996	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.125 5.720...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.910...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.780...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.280...30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST FAST APPROVALS, 0 POINT OF FEE LOANS Call 7days wk mlight@1stblackhawk.com		
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1652	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.501...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...1.000 6.000...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...2.000 4.740...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...1.000 4.488...30	OPEN WEEKENDS, FAST & EZ APRVAL, CASH OUT 100% PURCHASE PROGRAMS NO APPLICATION FEE 877-414-8280 or WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM		
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 0103939v Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.500 1.000 5.619...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 1.000 5.820...30	15-yr Fixed 4.675 1.000 5.070...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 1.000 4.440...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR A HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! CLOSE IN 30 DAYS OR APPRAISAL, \$ FEE!!!		
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC# 4130418 Fees=\$1831	30-yr Fixed 5.125 1.990 5.370...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 1.625 5.626...30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 1.750 4.824...30	30-yr Fixed 0 Pts 5.375 0.030 5.461...30	Good & Bad Credit Considered Brokers welcome! 'Great Commercial Loans' visit us at <a href="http://www.matrixinvestmenlcorp.com">www.matrixinvestmenlcorp.com</a>		
Mortgage Broker Assoc. 877-987-7700 DRE# 01166014 Fees=\$2277	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.500 5.781...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.500 5.841...30	3/1 ARM 3.875...1.000 4.436...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125...0.375 5.822...30	NO income NO Assets/NO Job? - YES NO Money Down/NO Closing Costs? - YES All types of Credit? - YES		
Mortgage Center USA 800-840-5588 DRE# 0081816 Fees=\$1770	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.412...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...2.000 5.860...30	15-yr Fixed 4.625...2.000 4.921...30	10-yr Int Only ARM 3.125...0.000 3.230...30	5/1 3.875 2pts 4.090 APR WOW! INT ONLY NO COST Loans E Bay Offices 800-840-5588 Purchase and Refinance Specialist		
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 0087562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.842...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125...0.000 6.219...30	15-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.402...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250...0.000 3.872...30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction.		
National Financial Corp. 510-818-9966 DRE# 965926 Fees=\$1600	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.762...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.067...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250...0.000 4.310...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.812...30	Fast approval on Purchase loan Easy qualify. Call for FREE pre-approval Apply now: <a href="http://www.uslending.com">www.uslending.com</a>		
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	6 month ARM call ...		WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are available!! (3yr ppp) E-mail <a href="mailto:Steve@northernmutual.com">Steve@northernmutual.com</a>		
Omni Funding Services 800-303-8887 DRE# 01183856 Fees=\$2051	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.500 5.852...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...1.500 6.179...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...1.500 5.377...30	5/1 ARM 4.500...1.500 4.712...30	www.24hourloancenter.com Check out our web site for more rates! We are committed to EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE!		
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.856...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.921...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.793...30	5/25 ARM 4.500...0.000 4.598...30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK		
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 4130396 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.560...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.778...30	3/1 ARM 3.125...0.000 3.735...30	5/1 ARM 4.125...0.000 4.004...30	Get rates online at <a href="http://www.pmgmortgage.com">www.pmgmortgage.com</a> Purchase specialist-we get loans closed! Great Jumbo & Interest Only programs.		
Santell & Associates 800-516-0656 DRE#00549593 Fees=\$1745	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.592...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 6.033...30	3/1 ARM 3.750...0.000 3.833...25	30-yr ARM* 1.950*...0.000 4.759...30	OPEN WEEKENDS / 0 POINTS- 0 COSTS avail INTEREST ONLY / 0 DOWN PMT/full indx.67 APPLY ONLINE AT <a href="http://www.loanpaperwork.com">www.loanpaperwork.com</a>		
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220328 Fees=\$1693	30-yr Fixed call ...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...	15-yr Fixed call ...	5/1 ARM call ...	Loan for all credit grades! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Purh/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com.		
SF Pacific Mtge. Consult. 415-567-5525 DRE 01243287 Fees=\$1695	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.667...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.896...30	1 Month MTA 1.250...0.000 3.669...30	Jumbo 6 mo IO* 2.875...0.000 2.918...30	Expert Real Estate Advice! Local SF Bay Area Broker. *5 yr int only period, Libor indexed		
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1824	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.592...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.772...45	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.028...45	1-yr ARM* 1.250...0.000 1.310...45	Refi, purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! No Doc Loans *pot neg am M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00		
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.910...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 6.090...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.190...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 5.090...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK. *Apply online! <a href="http://www.superior-mtg.net">www.superior-mtg.net</a>		
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.000 5.640...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.840...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.000 4.990...30	3/1 ARM 3.750...1.000 3.640...30	OPEN WEEKENDS CREDIT PROBLEMS O.K. WWW.AAALENDER.COM		
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE# 00892684 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.687...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.906...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...0.000 3.754...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 3.883...30	7/1 jumbo ARM 5.375% apr 4.413% 1month ARM 1% start rate, apr 3.194% Prepay & other restrictions may apply		
AimLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.125 5.740...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.250 5.815...30	15-yr Fixed 4.875...0.000 5.046...30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250...0.125 4.643...30	Apply and lock online 24/7. Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm. Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily		
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT RATES... AND MUCH MORE							
www.mtgeinfo.com/cct		◆ Learn about each lender's products & services ◆ Learn about closing costs and types of loans ◆ Check out our useful mortgage calculators					
		◆ Email questions/scenarios to lenders ◆ Hotlinks to all lenders' websites ◆ Prequalify, preapprove or apply online					
Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$322,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs based on a \$150,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website to contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.							
If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-776-1711							



- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 849 Meadow View - \$640,000   | 1200 144th Av - \$365,000      |
| 2513 Moyers Rd - \$340,000    | 580 Alvarado St - \$253,000    |
| 204 Park Ln - \$248,000       | 2031 Arctic St - \$380,000     |
| 2500 Pine Av - \$318,000      | 979 Billings Bl - \$386,000    |
| 5126 Potrero Av - \$299,000   | 707 Biltmore St - \$656,000    |
| 1300 Quarry 214 - \$455,000   | 716 Biltmore St - \$645,000    |
| 5126 Potrero Av - \$299,000   | 718 Biltmore St - \$253,000    |
| 1829 Shasta St - \$400,000    | 15535 Budge St - \$440,000     |
| 619 South 20th St - \$492,000 | 15233 Central Av - \$360,000   |
| 5010 State Av - \$262,000     | 1975 Cleveland St - \$373,000  |
| 5021 State Av - \$370,000     | 16584 Cowell St - \$445,000    |
| 2639 Wendell Av - \$307,500   | 15563 Cranbrook - \$405,000    |
| 2811 Wiswall Dr - \$325,000   | 14145 Doolittle Dr - \$265,000 |
|                               | 2365 Fairway Dr - \$279,000    |

**SAN LEANDRO**

1267 139th Av - \$365,000

See SALES Page B12

**HELP STAMP OUT ILLITERACY. READ WITH YOUR CHILDREN TODAY.**

**BAY AREA PROPERTIES**

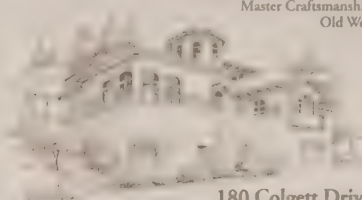
3088 Claremont Ave.  
Berkeley

**Diana Yonkouski**  
510-597-0292

Photos at:  
baproperties.com

**Fit For Royalty. A Trophy Estate.**

Master Craftsmanship...  
Old World Artisanship



180 Colgett Drive, Oakland

Spacious and intimate, elegant and functional.  
Few homes accomplish this with such elegance and comfort!

- Over 3 Acres of Privacy on Cul-de-sac
- 5070 sq. ft. of Timeless Mediterranean Architecture
- 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths (including Au Pair)
- Spectacular 5 Bridge Views, Convenient Location

Shown by Appointment Only

BAY AREA PROPERTIES Diana Yonkouski, Broker Offered at \$2,795,000

**Real Estate**

Holiday

Display Advertising Deadlines

for

Friday, Dec. 26th

Space Reservation: Friday, Dec. 19 - 10 am

Copy Deadline: Monday, Dec. 22 - 10 am

Friday

OPEN HOME GUIDE - In-Column Ads

Tuesday, Dec. 23rd - 11:00 am

**Happy Holidays**

Real Estate Advertising Dept.

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Kris Maples        | 510-262-2799 |
| Joyce Thompson     | 510-748-1688 |
| Rachelle Whitfield | 510-262-2740 |
| Emily Wallace      | 510-262-2755 |

EVERY  
FRIDAY

BILLS

**Hometown Classifieds**

(All Ads originated from a (510) area code)

Every Friday, you'll find hometown jobs, merchandise, real estate and more - all from 510 area code neighborhoods and businesses.

**OPEN HOMES**

**COLDWELL BANKER**

www.CaliforniaMoves.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

**OPEN HOMES**

**OPEN HOMES**

**OPEN HOMES**

**Claremont Hills** \$2,350,000  
40 Stephens Way Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 3.5 BA Gorgeous! New construction, contemporary design. Fabulous Bay views, huge lot.  
Joan D. 510.339.4700

**Berkeley** \$1,750,000  
1245 Glen Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30  
4 BR 3 BA Redone from the foundation up. Craftsman ambience, huge rear yard, min to Gourmet Ghetto.  
Amy A. & Lydia N. 510.339.4700

**Claremont Hills** \$1,730,000  
1528 Grand View Dr. Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 5 BA Mediterranean w/ Golden Gate & SF views. Gourmet kitchen/fam rm, formal dining.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$1,580,000  
6260 Fairlane Dr. Sun 1 - 4:30  
3 BR 3 BA Eight-year Contemporary w/ SF, Bay & bridge views! Amenities galore!  
Anita Zuck 510.339.4700

**Claremont Heights** \$1,245,000  
17 Live Oak Rd. Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 3 BA Level in design, chef's kitchen, terrace, many upgrades, lavish master.  
Terry Kulk 510.339.4700

**Oakmore** \$949,000  
1901 Rosecrest Drive Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 2.5 BA Stately English Traditional in desirable Oakmore. Lovingly updated.  
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700

**Claremont Hills** \$849,000  
7235 Buckingham Blvd. Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 2.5 BA Rich wood, high ceilings & serene outlook in spacious brown shingle. Non-conforming.  
Karen Lum 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$699,000  
5946 Colton Sun 1 - 4:30  
3 BR 2 BA Monterey Colonial w/yard & view! Charming! Deck off living room.  
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

**Maxwell Park** \$425,000  
2944 57th Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30  
2 BR 1 BA Charming beauty w/split-level design, HWF throughout, garage/carpport. Bright & spacious!  
Gary Robinson 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$322,000  
926 Chester St. Unit F Sun 1 - 4:30  
1 BR 1 BA Live/work loft significantly rebuilt, 1400+sf, HWF secured parking, near BART.  
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$625,000  
6666 Sobrante Rd Sun 2 - 4:30  
4 BR 2.5 BA In desirable Montclair, this immaculate home is near swim club, school & shops. Sharp!  
Terry Kulk 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$569,000  
7086 Sayre Drive Sun 2 - 4:30  
3+ BR/2BA in the woods. Updated kitchen, LR w/vaulted ceiling, plus room, private deck

**Piedmont** \$5,850,000  
8 BR 5 full BA + 2 half Sunny & expansive. Large formal rooms, library, rumpus room & indoor pool/spa. Picturesque landscaping designed by Thomas Church.  
George Karsant 510.339.4700

**Crocker Highlands** \$1,190,000  
3+ BR 2 BA Stunning Tudor revival; period detail-leaded glass, hewn beam ceilings, French doors, 4 FP; plus room used as home theater.  
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$322,000  
926 Chester St. Unit F Sun 1 - 4:30  
1 BR 1 BA Live/work loft significantly rebuilt, 1400+sf, HWF secured parking, near BART.  
Victor Ratto 510.339.4700

**Montclair** \$749,000  
3 BR 1.5 BA Great Salt Box Cape Cod; daub & wattle walls in DR, latched drs, beam ceilings, built-ins, usable yard & patios, eat-in kit & bay window  
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

**BY APPOINTMENT**

**Upper Laurel** \$495,000  
Charming Traditional 2+ BR 1.5 BA w/big bay views & big level back yard. LR & DR, HWF fireplace, kitchen/Fam rm & bonus rm down!  
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

**Crocker Highlands** \$425,000  
Contractor's opportunity! Charming 3+BR/2BA English style fixer in a desirable neighborhood. Formal DR, sunny exposure, level yard.  
Dian Hymer 510.339.4700

**Oakland** \$215,000  
2 BR 1 BA Cute 2 Bedroom/1 Bath home with a large basement and fenced yard!  
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

**Berkeley** \$7,750,000  
9 BR 4.5 BA. Spring Mansion. This home is listed on the California Historical Registry. The estate includes second house with 3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages & tennis court.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

**Oakland** \$1,800,000  
3 BR 3.5 BA Spectacular View. Elegant home with unobstructed 3 bridge view. Marbled jacuzzi in master bath. Incredible quality finishes throughout!  
Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

**Berkeley** \$479,500  
2 BR 2 BA This wonderful Berkeley home is located on a quiet & serene block. Formal dining room.  
Azaria Berhane 510-486-1495

**We'll beat any lender's price... GUARANTEED.**

**1.888.281.9203**  
(Oakland)

**1.888.281.9197**  
(Berkeley)

Call today for your Free Pre-approval!

Financing provided by Coldwell Banker Mortgage, NMLS. Equal Housing Opportunity. Licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions under the California Real Estate License. All subject to verification of lender's price and other requirements. Please contact us for details. \*Subject to approval. Market conditions and property approval required.

**COLDWELL BANKER**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6137 La Salle Avenue Oakland

195 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley



Sales

FRANCISCO B11

15222 Galt St - \$395,000  
1203 Gardner Bl - \$398,000  
2501 Humboldt - \$700,000  
854 Juana Av - \$375,000  
14448 Juniper St - \$336,000  
510 Monogram - \$502,500  
590 Muscarl St - \$710,000  
122 Oakes Bl - \$395,000  
1342 Post Av - \$385,000  
981 Purdue St - \$249,000  
1440 Randy St - \$437,000  
350 Sybil Av - \$357,000  
921 Victoria Av - \$373,500  
1369 Vista Grand - \$538,000

SAN LORENZO

574 Drew St - \$375,000  
390 Hacienda Av - \$399,000  
73 Paseo Grande - \$370,000  
17873 Via Arroyo - \$365,000  
17243 Via San Ardo - \$380,000  
1627 Via Sarita - \$393,000  
16044 Via Segundo - \$350,000  
1561 Via Ventana - \$385,000  
17541 Wickman Pl - \$297,500

By the numbers

ALL AREA

TOTAL SALES: 15  
LOWEST PRICE: \$215,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,500,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$545,000

AVERAGE PRICE \$607,933

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2  
LOWEST PRICE: \$428,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$685,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$556,500

BENKLEY

TOTAL SALES: 18  
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$975,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$619,056

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST PRICE: \$394,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$450,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$481,444

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 8  
LOWEST PRICE: \$168,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$603,500  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$390,250

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$655,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$384,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$382,556

KINGSTON

TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$850,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 97  
LOWEST PRICE: \$125,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,380,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$358,500  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$399,753

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST PRICE: \$745,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,215,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$808,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$914,600

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 32  
LOWEST PRICE: \$240,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$640,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$366,672

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 29  
LOWEST PRICE: \$249,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$710,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$385,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,517

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 9  
LOWEST PRICE: \$297,500

HIGHEST PRICE: \$399,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$375,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$368,278

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Real Estate Advertising Deadline

Space Reservation: **MONDAY, 12 Noon**  
Copy & Advertis: **TUESDAY, 12 Noon**  
Deadline: **WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon**

The GRUBB Co.



475 Jean Street, Oakland

Renovated 1920's traditional in move-in condition with four bedrooms, remodeled eat-in kitchen, spacious formal rooms and level front garden

Originally offered at \$625,000  
Sold with three offers  
Represented the sellers

DANA COHEN  
OFFICE: 339.0400/348  
dcohen@grubbco.com



**Service Without Compromise**  
(510) 843-2724  
Nakamura Realty@aol.com

**Home & Apartment Specialists**  
**NAKAMURA REALTY INC.**  
2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley CA 94704

**2313 9th St. BERKELEY \$1,100,000**  
BERKELEY 6-Unit Apartment!  
6 - 2 BD Units, ALL VACANT!  
Owner recently completed lots of remodel type work.  
Property shows extremely well.

**6-Units in 2 Buildings**  
Nice unit mix Good sized lot.  
Some separate utility meters.  
Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Loix District. CALL!

**Commercial w/4 retail stores**  
large corner lot w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC count.  
Currently, Café - Cleaners - Beauty Salon - One VACANT Owner Use?  
Plenty of off street parking.  
Call on this wonder!

**OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**BERKELEY \$799,000**

**N. OAKLAND \$850,000**

**OAKLAND \$355,000**

**RICHMOND \$220,000**

**HERCULES \$449,000**

**ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE - CALL TODAY!!!**

**RECENTLY SOLD**

**120 LATHAM ST., PIEDMONT**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath. List price: \$825,000

**2622 CAMINO LENADA**  
2 bedroom, 2 bath. List price: \$399,000

**Dian Hymer, CRS**  
Associate Broker  
#1 agent Oakland/Piedmont office  
510-339-4777  
Photo tours@dianhymer.com

**COLDWELL BANKER**

MORTGAGE Plus HILLS EDITION

**Locked out of your dream home?**

**We have the keys to help get you through the front door.**

- Low Interest Rates
- Home Equity Loans
- No Down Payments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Time Buyer Specialists
- Great Refinancing Program

**AMERI WORLD MORTGAGE, INC.**  
(800) 843-7007  
www.amerimort.com

**Good Credit. Less Than Perfect Credit.**

**Wells Fargo Home Mortgage has More Ways to Say "Yes"**

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage has the programs to help you finance a home, refinance, or consolidate a debt-even if you have less-than-perfect credit

- Low fees • Flexible loan parameters
- Call the Nation's Leading Retail Mortgage Lender-And Compare

**PETER GILLIS 925-765-0529**

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., originates mortgage loans in New Hampshire under License No. 5757 MB for first mortgages and License No. 4768 MB for second mortgages and is New Jersey Department of Banking Licensed Mortgage Banker. © 2001 Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Financing Your Dreams • Create the Life You Want

**STEVEN WALDEN**  
Licensed by CA Dept of Real Estate

**"Mortgage Lending with Care and Consideration"**

**Lender Approval By Phone**  
510.559.3330 ext 104

**Thousand Oaks FINANCIAL**  
1225 Solano Avenue in Albany 94706  
swalden@thousandoaksfinancial.com

**Exclusive New Product!!!**  
**2.875%**  
APR 3.114%  
Fully Indexed / Not a teaser rate

Approved with over 400 Lenders.  
We'll find THE PERFECT LOAN for you.

No Point/No Fee loans available - 100% financing  
Purchase or Refinance - Extremely low rates  
Debt Consol./ Hm. Improv - Specialist in imperfect credit.

**Jonathan Sanger and Marc Souza**  
Office: 925/282-6071 **Call Now Funding Group**  
Please email: Jonathan or Marc @lamorindafunding.com  
3697 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #175 Lafayette, CA 94549 Broker ID #01183856

**Lamorinda**

**CalPERS, LRS, & JRS Members! Take a Look!**

The CalPERS Member Home Loan Program offers a variety of benefits:

- Purchases and Refinances
- Very Competitive Interest Rates
- FREE 60-Day Rate Lock with Two FREE Float Down Options
- 100% Financing Option
- Reduced Title Closing Fees
- Reduced Mortgage Insurance Rates

**Shelley Stone, Sr. Loan Officer**  
Call today: 925-228-7622

**Countrywide HOME LOANS**  
Easy. Really.

**CalPERS Member Home Loan Program**

**Problem Credit or Perfect Credit**  
Purchase Refi up to 125% of appraised value

15 YEAR FIXED	30 YEAR FIXED	7-1 JUMBO
<b>4.875%</b> 5.120% APR	<b>5.625%</b> 5.99% APR	<b>4.99%</b> 5.21% APR

**Mortgage Network**  
800-627-1886  
Lic. R.E. Broker w/Calif. Dept. of Real Estate #00641957

**RIGHT TRAC FINANCIAL GROUP**  
THE MORTGAGE COMPANY THAT MAKES IT HAPPEN  
A FULL SERVICE MORTGAGE COMPANY THAT OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. GOOD CREDIT OR NOT SO GOOD CREDIT

**There's Unlimited Potential... The Possibilities are Endless!**

- Foreclosure of Belongings
- Zero Down
- 100% Purchasing Financing
- Interest Only
- Stated Income or Assets
- Conventional, Jumbo Super
- Jumbo, FHA & VA
- 125% Debt Consolidation Loans

And there's more. Getting a mortgage will never be easier. You'll find that you've come to THE RIGHT PLACE for THE RIGHT LOAN. RIGHT TRAC FINANCIAL GROUP. Don't wait, call and get a new mortgage today!

925.376.5886 Anne or Nathan 925.280.6669 ext.19

We plant a TREE for every loan that we close!  
Visit our Website: www.righttrac.com  
CA Broker Dept. of Real Estate - License No. 01174620

**RIGHT TRAC FINANCIAL GROUP**

**GOODY MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT INC.**

**Real Estate Loans**  
Goody's Got It All!

**PURCHASE - REFINANCE**  
1st or 2nd Loans - Equity Lines to 100%

**658-8000** FREE CONSULTATION & PRE-QUALIFICATION  
www.goodymortgage.com

Personal Professional Service Since 1982  
4410 HOWE ST., OAKLAND 94611 R.E. BROKER - CA. DEPT OF R.E. 916-227-0331

**HANNAH GOODY**

**CHASE**

**The Right Relationship is Everything**  
Trust. Respect. Reliability. We engender all this.

LOW RATES • FAST APPROVALS • FREE PREQUALIFICATION

Less than Perfect Credit - OK  
Stated Income - Interest Only  
Zero Points

**Purchases**

**1-888-CHASE-18**  
(1-888-242-7318)

To Advertise Your GREAT RATES Call M  
925-952-2630



# OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com

Berkeley	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland
<b>\$535,000</b> 1834 Arch St 2BD/- Open Sun 2-4 Prudential Ca Realty Carol Heath-Kim	<b>\$322,000</b> 926 Chester St., #F 1BD/1BA Sun. 1-4:30 Coldwell Banker Victor Ratto	<b>\$549,000</b> 6400 Heather Ridge Way 3+BD/3BA Open Sun 1-4:30 Montclair Prudential Ca Realty Roy Grigsby	<b>\$1,549,000</b> 6151 Acacia Ave. 4BD 4+BA Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Pines 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Elizabeth Dickson
<b>\$600,000</b> 2335 Edwards St. 4BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors Kelly Deal	<b>\$369,000</b> 2968 Morgan 2BD/1.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Laurel 510-531-7000 x263 Wells & Bennett Realtors Noll Davis	<b>\$549,000</b> 81 Montell St 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 Piedmont Ave 510-845-0211 Prudential Ca Realty Lisa Friedman	<b>\$1,580,000</b> 6260 Fairlane Dr. 5BD 3BA Sun. 1-4:30 Coldwell Banker Monica Zuck
<b>\$619,000</b> 1215 Queens Rd 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty Annalisse Demuth	<b>\$380,000</b> 492 - 37th St. 3BD/1+BA Sun. 2-4:30 Temescal 510-339-8900, x252 C21 Heritage Real Estate Kevin Skipper	<b>\$569,000</b> 7086 Sayre Drive 3+BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Montclair 510-339-4700 Liat Bostick	<b>\$1,595,000</b> 5963 Wood Dr 5+BD/4+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Border 510-526-4566 Millstein & Associates Lorraine Osmundson
<b>\$649,000</b> 2336 Curtis Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2129 Simone Knowlton	<b>\$382,000</b> 959-55th Street 2BD/1BA OPEN 1-4 Sun Quest Real Estate 510-658-8044 Tom Kelem, Bkr.	<b>\$579,000</b> 4267 Montgomery St 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Realty 510-339-4000 Michael Gondanis	<b>\$1,650,000</b> 55 Diablo Dr. 4BD 3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Montclair 510-339-0400 Jill Carrigan
<b>\$689,000</b> 419 Boynton Ave 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2125 Kathy Nitsan	<b>\$385,000</b> 347 Perkins St. 2BD/1.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-205-3575 Andrew Raskopf	<b>\$599,000</b> 6401 Snake Rd. 22BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Anne Feste	<b>\$1,730,000</b> 1628 Grand View Dr. 5+BD 5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Claremont Hills 510-339-4700 David Eckert
<b>\$795,000</b> 1907 Parker St 4BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2138 Billy Karp	<b>\$389,000</b> 5234 Belvedere 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Ca Realty 510-339-9290 Dollie Henson	<b>\$599,000</b> 6656 Charing Cross Rd. 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Sherry Benninger	<b>\$2,350,000</b> 20 Stephens Way 4+BD 3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker 510-339-4700 Ellen L. Joan D.
<b>\$835,000</b> 975 Regal Road 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Millstein & Associates 510-843-5224 Alexandra Crisafulli	<b>\$399,000</b> 4636 Kaplan Ave. 2+BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Nancy Lehrkind	<b>\$639,000</b> 6666 Sobrante Rd. 4BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Montclair 510-339-4700 Terry Kulka	<b>\$773,000</b> 6773 Sobrante Rd 3+BD 2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-4700 Prudential Ca Realty Kriss Makris
<b>\$845,000</b> 2738 Forest Ave. 4BD/2+1/2BA Open 1-4 By Owner 510-841-6829	<b>\$399,000</b> 5122 Congress Ave. 3+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 The Homes-Link Team 510-748-5300	<b>\$649,000</b> 6216 Chelton Drive 3BD/2BA Sun. 1:30-4:30 C21 Heritage Real Estate 510-339-9778 Hal Castle	<b>\$699,888</b> 166 Lake Ave. 2BD 1BA Open Sun 2-5 Classic Properties 1-510-658-8896 Clifford
<b>\$899,000</b> 1959 San Antonio Avenue 3BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1329 Jeanine Weller	<b>\$415,000</b> 3301 Parkridge Avenue 3BD/1BA Sun. 2-4pm Landmark Associates 510-339-0400 Lucy Meyer	<b>\$655,000</b> 3336 Burdeck Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 Prudential Ca Realty 510-851-9888 Wendy T. Louie	<b>\$1,400,000</b> 1224 Ashmount Ave. 4+BD 2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1382 Keith Tollas
<b>\$1,250,000</b> 305 The Uplands 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-652-2133 Ronald Egberman	<b>\$415,000</b> 5324 Walnut Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 ReMax Accord 510-728-2914 Bob Baptiste	<b>\$679,000</b> 4933 Stoneridge Ct. 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Sherry Benninger	<b>\$1,599,000</b> 8 Glen Alpine Rd. 5BD 4.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1306 Debi Fitzgerald
<b>\$1,350,000</b> 160 Gravatt Dr. 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Karen Starr	<b>\$419,000</b> 3006 Sylan Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Ca Realty 510-339-9290 Tami Bobb	<b>\$679,000</b> 961 Park Lane 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1385 Madalyn Mitchell	<b>\$699,000</b> 5946 Colton 3BD/2BA Sun. 1-4:30 Coldwell Banker Montclair 510-339-4700 Donna Conroy
<b>\$1,350,000</b> 160 Gravatt Drive 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30pm The Grubb Company 510-339-0400 Karen Starr	<b>\$425,000</b> 2944 - 57th Avenue 2BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Maxwell Park 510-339-4700 Gary Robinson	<b>\$810,000</b> 277 Capricorn Ave 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Realty 510-339-4566 Maria Sincilar	<b>\$288,000</b> 225 S. 23rd St 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-334-1355 Brett Stratton
<b>\$1,650,000</b> 1705 La Loma Ave. 4+BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1339 Gini Erck	<b>\$429,000</b> 4006 Lincoln Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Ca Realty 510-845-0211 Sharon Ho	<b>\$849,000</b> 7235 Buckingham Blvd. 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Claremont Hills 510-339-4700 Karen Lum	<b>\$299,000</b> 5419 Garvin Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens 510-527-2700 X39 Meridee Carter
<b>\$1,750,000</b> 2245 Glen Ave. 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker 510-339-1338 Becky A. & Lydia N.	<b>\$429,000</b> 8451 Aster 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Ca Realty 510-834-2010 LaTasha Banks	<b>\$849,900</b> 4030 Reinhardt Dr 3BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-482-9000 Better Homes Realty Patricia Bennett	<b>\$299,950</b> 717 30th St 2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific R.E. 510-662-8480 Michael J.
<b>\$445,000</b> 300 Caldecott Lane #310 2BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 415-235-7408/510-610-5009 Elizabeth Kane/Sally Lane	<b>\$450,000</b> 4651 Fair Ave. 2BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate S. Klemmer & D. Cohen 510-339-6460	<b>\$899,000</b> 35 Agnes 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-428-0900 Prudential Ca Realty Barbara McQuaid	<b>\$309,000</b> 345 Suisun Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty 510-280-2144 Cindy Wilson
<b>\$479,000</b> 1936 Downey Place 3BD 2BA Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens 510-559-2937 Diana Mendler	<b>\$475,000</b> 3221 Blandon Rd 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Oak Knoll 510-428-0900 Prudential Ca Realty Anne Risk	<b>\$949,000</b> 1901 Rosecrest Drive 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Oakmore 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Becky Andersen	<b>\$649,000</b> 2 Fallon Pl. #57 2BD 1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Russian Hill 510-338-1368 Pacific Union Real Estate Ashley O'Neill
<b>\$569,000</b> 788 Colusa Ave 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-508-5580 Mary Cao	<b>\$485,000</b> 4150 Maynard Ave. 3BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30pm Richardson R.E. Services 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson	<b>\$950,000</b> 6163 Ridgmont Drive 3BD Sun. 2-4:30pm Edward Bell Realty 510-339-9398 Ed Bell	<b>\$649,000</b> 1437 140th Ave 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Bal 510-339-4000 Better Homes Realty Earle Shenk
<b>\$569,000</b> 788 Colusa Ave 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels 510-508-5580 Mary Cao	<b>\$499,000</b> 488 Crescent St. 3BD/1+BA Sun. 2-4:30 Grand Lake 510-338-1307 Pacific Union Real Estate Jeffrey Himmel	<b>\$1,025,000</b> 601 Via Rialto 4BD 3BA Sat. & Sun. 1-5 Oakland Hills 510-338-1354 Pacific Union Real Estate Jennie Flanigan	<b>\$448,000</b> 1680 Scenicview Dr 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Bay-O-Vista 510-339-4000 Better Homes Realty Sherdella Sims
<b>\$505,000</b> 563 58th Ave 2+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Realty 510-339-4000 Ken Nwokedi	<b>\$519,000</b> 310 Oakland Ave 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Piedmont Ave Corridor 510-428-0900 Prudential Ca Realty Hernan Luna	<b>\$1,099,000</b> 1293 Sunnyhills Rd. 4BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Crocketer Highlands 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Adam Betta	<b>\$1,195,000</b> 818 Northvale Rd. 7BD 4BA Sun. 2-4:30 Crocketer Highlands 510-338-1366 Pacific Union Real Estate Joanna Hirsch
<b>\$519,000</b> 3130 Guido St. 2BD 1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-338-1352 Pacific Union Real Estate Diane McCan	<b>\$529,000</b> 4277 Gilbert St. 2+BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Pacific Union Real Estate 510-338-1368 Ashley O'Neill	<b>\$1,245,000</b> 15 Live Oak Rd. 4+BD/3.5BA Sun. 1-4:30 Claremont Heights 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Dan Joy	<b>\$679,500</b> 33 Terraced Hills Wy 4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates 510-628-3118 Kathie Ng
<b>\$539,000</b> 2828 Richmond Ave 3+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Ca Realty 510-339-9290 Kriss Makris	<b>\$519,000</b> 3130 Guido St. 2BD 1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-338-1352 Pacific Union Real Estate Diane McCan	<b>\$1,450,000</b> 23 White Court 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 1-5 Montclair 510-339-8900, x255 C21 Heritage Real Estate Mel Copland	

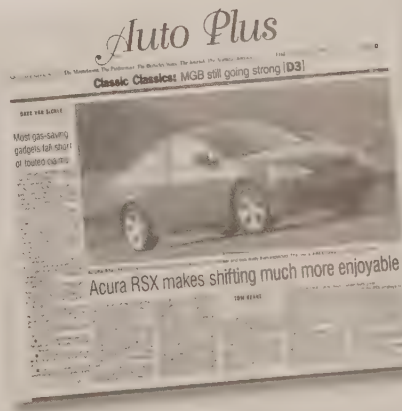
What  
are

driving?

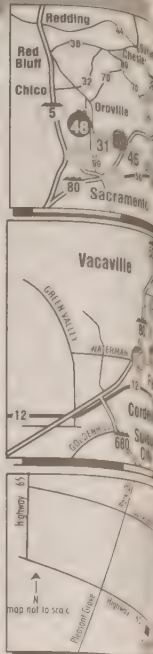
New, used or classic...every Friday in Auto Plus.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS

THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTCLARION  
THE PIEDMONTER • ALAMEDA JOURNAL





**OAKLAND**

**75 Durant Village**  
From the low \$300,000s. Now selling! An exciting new collection of condominium homes conveniently located in east Oakland. Multi-level homes offer up to 1734 sq ft of living space with stately patios and individual garages with private entries. Call us to downtown the Oakland airport BART ferry newways and bridge! Tremendous new home value for first-time and move-up buyers. Sales office open daily 10 - 5 Mon  
12-5 510-836-9428 www.sigaprom.com

**OAKLEY**

*Elle M. Moore, Realtor*

**Della Paine**  
Model Homes Now Open! F

This wonderful collection of new homes offers a great family environment. 3-6 bedroom homes ranging in size from 1600-3035 sq ft. All homes fully equipped with incredible amenities as standard features. Open Sat & Sun 10-6 weekdays 10-5. Call 925-625-4099 [www.castlecompanies.com](http://www.castlecompanies.com)

**76 Parklands**  
**From the low \$300,000's.** Beautiful single family homes. Model is now open. One and two story 3 to 5 bedroom plans from 1710 to 2750 sq ft. In Oakley off Highway 4 (Main Street) east on Laurel Road. Sales at Telton Road, left at Yosemite Circle left at Zion Court. Right at office open daily 10-5. For more information call 925-625-8551.

**78 Quail Glen**  
**From the upper \$400,000's. Model now open!!!** Oakley's most prestigious community. Spacious homes ranging from 2500 to 3500 sq ft. Call 925-625-4099

is here! Hwy 4 to Live Oak Ave  
week. Discovery Builders 90

**PACHECO**

**79 Pacheco Arbor Springs Townhomes**  
From the high \$300,000s. Don't Miss Out! Only 16 units available! Easy convenient and affordable living. Nearly 1300 sq. central location, attractive floorplans, private yards and more. Carlos Ortiz, Broker at HomeSmart, 415-851-1234

Steven J. Furtado Construction

**81 PITTSBURG**  
**Capistrano at Oak Hills**  
From the mid \$400,000s. Prime lots now available. Don't miss out on your final opportunity to own in this exclusive community. Homes ranging from 1785 to 3312 sq. ft. Minutes from BART and major freeway access. Exit Bailey Road South and follow the signs to the south. Call: 925-925-2208.

## San Marco

**Highlands Ranch**  
From the mid \$400,000s. Best investment! Newest master planned community with unique and spacious floorplans from 1870 to 3706 sq. ft. Future planned community center, tennis courts and park. Local Elementary School under construction! Hwy 4 exit Bay Point. Discovery Builders 925-458-1754

family homes with plans ranging from 1,200 to 2,200 sq. ft.

sq ft, features 3-8 bdrms, 2-3 car garages w/ plenty of options for dens, lofts, studies & bonus rooms Hwy 4 Lowergrade Rd exit south, left on Buchanan Road and right on Ventura Drive For more information call 625-439-9070 [www.seenhomes.com](http://www.seenhomes.com)

 **Railroad Terrace**  
From the \$300,000s. **MODELS FOR SALE!** Spacious and open floorplans in the beautiful Manna District Homes ranging

From Hwy 4 exit Railroad Ave. North  
Davenport, Davenport 335-550-5005

**Park Place**  
Coming Mid December! 4+ bedrooms, 1787 to 1871 sq ft To  
be placed on interest list, call 1-877-370-4663 ext 60

**PLEASANTON**

**Carlton Oaks**

**Carlton Oaks**  
From the mid \$900,000s

collection of upscale homes offer 5 to 6 bedrooms and 4 to 5  
baths with 3-car garage and up to 3,721 sq. ft. of refined living  
space. To visit Carlton Oaks, take 680 to Bernal Ave. west and  
go left on West Lagoon Rd. Hours are 10-5 daily. Call 925-600-  
8828. [www.greenbriarhomes.com](http://www.greenbriarhomes.com)

**37 Peasant Ridge**  
From the low \$1,000,000s. Models Now Open! These

one and two-story, 5 to 6 bedroom residences feature up to 5,326 sq ft

**RICHMOND**

**Augusta at Country Club Vista**  
From the upper \$500,000s **GRAND OPENING!** Augusta

will offer 4-6 bedroom homes with u  
Richmond Country Club SCS Deve

Open daily 10am-5pm 510-669-0473  
www.scsdevelopment.com

**89 Metro Walk at the Richmond Transit Village**  
**NOW SELLING! From the \$200,000's and \$300,000's**  
Incredible, affordably priced attached homes in the  
redeveloping downtown area of Richmond offer you the chance  
to finally give your own home. Metro Walk changes the way to & from

in 1395 to 1615 sq ft with attached  
left and separate home office option

**Ryland Parkview - North Sacramento**  
From the high \$200,000s. Single family detached homes 3 &

4 bedrooms 1 702-2,448 sq ft Nor  
80 exit West El Camino Ave , right

**Las Castas - North Sacramento**  
Now Selling From the mid \$200,000s. 3-4 bedrooms •  
1,302-2,009 sq. ft. Interstate 60 exit West El Camino Ave., right  
on El Centro Rd., right on San Juan Rd., left on Duckhorn  
928.518.9821 [www.928.518.9821.com](http://www.928.518.9821.com)

**SANTA ROSA**

**Siena at Tuscany**  
Priced from the high \$800,000s, Fountaingrove hilltop location for this collection of luxury homes in a relaxed golf oriented lifestyle. Take Hwy 101 to Bicentennial exit east to Fountaingrove Parkway to right on Parker Hill on the top of the hill. Daily 11-5 pm Monday 1-5 pm 707-568-6787

**SAN PABLO**

**Abella by Signature Properties**  
From the low \$300,000s. Now Previewing! Two collections of distinctive homes in a gated setting close to commute routes. BART recreation, trails & parks • The Courts 3-5 BR single-family courtyard homes, 1364-2521 sq ft • The Terraces 2 & 3 BR multilevel townhomes, 1364-2521 sq ft • A beautiful

combination of value & convenience  
open daily 10-5, Monday Noon-5 5

www.sigprop.com

**SAN RAMON**

**01 Norris Canyon Estates**

*From the low \$1,000,000s.* Extraordinary guard-gated community is in a magnificent hillside location in the heart of

San Ramon Valley These homes feature  
foyers, staircases, fabulous gourmet

suites, sunlit family rooms, private dens, and lower level bonus rooms in 14 floorplans from 3600 to over 6600 sq. ft. Five models open daily 11-6. 925-743-1000 [www.tollbrothers.com](http://www.tollbrothers.com)







## Bruss

FROM PAGE B6

house needs fix-up work to raise its market value, the best way to purchase is with a low-cash down payment without having to obtain a new mortgage.

The key reasons are (a) the fix-up work will increase the home's market value and (b) after fix-up, the home will qualify for a larger refinanced mortgage. Or, you might want to "flip" the property and sell for a huge obscene profit. Better yet, make a Starker tax-deferred exchange.

Depending on the circumstances, you may be able to buy with a modest down payment, taking over the existing first mortgage. If there's a finance gap, ask the seller to carry back a second mortgage for five years. A savvy buyer's agent can help with creative finance ideas and negotiation.

5 — Insist the house be vacant when you take title. Whether you plan to live in the fix-up house, keep it as a rental house, or "flip" it, an essential success rule is to insist the house be vacant when you take title.

cant when you take title.

Then you can quickly get started on your essential fix-up work. If you've ever tried to work around occupants, as I have, you know it's best to work in a vacant house to quickly get the improvements completed.

## Sources

There are many ways to locate bargain fix-uppers. A sharp buyer's agent can be a great source. Also, check the local and Internet listings at [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com) and other sources to locate leads.

I've bought some of my most profitable fix-up properties by driving neighborhoods that interested me. In addition, don't overlook foreclosures, REO (real estate owned by foreclosing lenders) and other distress properties. Also, tell everyone you know you want to buy a "fixer upper" house.

## How to pay for the work

Having fixed up dozens of houses, I learned short-term finance sources are the best for financing the fix-up work. The reason is after the fix-up work is

completed, the house should substantially appreciate in market value. At that time, you can either refinance to pay your fix-up costs, or sell the house to pay off your short-term debt.

To pay for the fix-up, I've used credit cards, bank credit lines, and even borrowing from "hard money" individual lenders (the most expensive). Because most fix-up projects take less than six months, these money sources really aren't as costly as they might seem.

More details are in my new special report, "Pros and Cons of Buying a Fixer-Upper House or Investment Property," available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or [www.bobbruss.com](http://www.bobbruss.com).

**This week's Open Home Guide is on B13.**

## MORTGAGE RATES

15 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED		5/1 ADJUSTABLE
RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE
5.25%	5.28%	5.87%	5.89%	5.125%



BLAKE A. BRYDON

510 748-8904

"Where People Come First"

2130 Otis Drive • Alameda  
email: [BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com](mailto:BrydonB@BankofAlameda.com)

\*5.28% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is 15 years. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$2,595. \*\*5.89% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is 30 years. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,929. \*\*\*5.125% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is 5 years. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$500,000 is approximately \$2,722. Homeowners insurance is required. All mortgage programs are based on primary single-family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. All programs are subject to credit review and underwriting requirements. \*Minimum down payment is 3.5% for all programs. \*\*Minimum down payment is 3.5% for all programs. \*\*\*Minimum down payment is 3.5% for all programs.

I am pleased to announce...

JUST LISTED

81 MONTELL ST.

Craftsman gem in the popular Piedmont Avenue neighborhood. Spacious three bedroom with stunning original architectural details including redwood wainscoting and paneling, inlaid hardwood floors, and a stone fireplace. Master bedroom has 11 new Pella windows and a cozy wood stove!

Offered at \$549,000

Your Neighborhood Realtor  
**Lisa Friedman**Top Producer in 2000, 2001 & 2002  
Voice Mail 510.986.9547Virtual Tour:  
[www.prurealty.com/lisafriedman](http://www.prurealty.com/lisafriedman)Prudential  
California Realty

510.845.0211

The GRUBB Co.

Recently Sold

6422 Broadway Terrace  
Originally offered at \$649,0006281 Broadway Terrace  
Originally offered at \$425,0001654 Redwood Road  
Originally offered at \$519,0006678 Dawes Street  
Originally offered at \$959,000Debbi DiMaggio  
Making Transitions EasierOFFICE: 339.0400/227  
[GRUBBCO.COM](http://GRUBBCO.COM)

Available Listings

5808 Lawton Avenue  
Offered at \$849,0005901 Locot Drive  
Offered at \$739,000

Visit GRUBBCO.COM

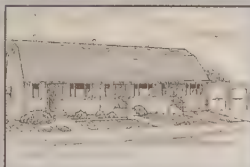
Photo Tours  
of this and other current listingsPrudential  
California Realty

## FEATURED HOMES



**Berkeley Income ++ \$1,095,000**  
3 units in great location!  
Excellent condition! Parking!!  
Many possibilities. Call

Nancy Plattford (510) 845-0211

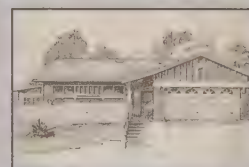


**Charming Triplex \$605,000**  
3 unit building in Albany in good condition! 3 garages, hardwood floors, laundry.

Carol Heath-Kim (510) 527-9800



**Sunday 2-4:30 \$595,000**  
488 Fairbanks Ave, Oakland.  
Just down the street from  
Piedmont, this Craftsman is  
carefully restored, 3+BR, 2+BA.  
B. Reynolds (510) 868-1487



**Sunday 2-4 \$475,000**  
3221 Blandon Rd. (X Golf Links). Great entertainers hm, hot tub/sauna, exercise rm.

Anne Risk (510) 428-0900



**Sunday 2-4:30 \$300,000**  
1012 63rd St., Oakland. Lg Craftsman fixer near Berkeley border w/ enormous potential 3+BR, 2 BA & potential in-law. B. Reynolds (510) 868-1487

## Lots for Sale

**Tilden Pk Lots \$449,000**  
2 lots upslope. Soils report and some utilities. Lg lot. Candice Economides (510) 868-1487

## Contra Costa

**Panoramic Bay Views \$1,100,000**  
Kensington 3/4 acre estate lots. Frank Lloyd Wright influenced home. Lillie Braudy (510) 868-1487

**Looking for an extraordinary challenging project?**

FREE TRAINING

**CALL KAREN 800-499-5555**

**open home**

## Oakland/Piedmont

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,095,000**  
6820 Thornhill. Stunning 4+BR, 4 BA Mediterranean in private setting.

Howard Converse (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$970,000**  
6773 Sobrante. Brand new 3+BR, 2.5 BA construction! One of a kind!

Kriss Makris (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 2-5 \$655,000**  
3336 Burdeck. New home with 3 BR, 2 BA. Charming & delightful, hdwd floors.

Wendy T. Louie (510) 851-9888

**Sunday 2-5 \$549,000**  
81 Montell St. Piedmont Ave. 3 BR Craftsman. Architectural gem!

Lisa Friedman (510) 845-0211

**Sunday \$549,000**  
6400 Heather Ridge Way. 3+BR, 3 BA w/ separate in-law. Great garden, large living.

Roy Grigsby (510) 845-0211

## Oakland/Piedmont

**Sunday 2-4 \$519,000**  
310 Oakland Ave. Lg Victorian, 5 BR + cottage, great yard, decks, trplc, hdwd.

Hernan Luna (510) 428-0900

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$389,000**  
5234 Belvedere. Ready to move in 2 BR, 1 BA bungalow. Price reduced!

Dollie Henson (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 2-4 \$265,000**  
1716 14th St. Victorian starter. Hi-ceiling, laundry, room to expand by road, easy to BART, fwy, bus, shop.

Cynthia (510) 869-5397

## Berkeley

**Sunday 1-4 \$449,000**  
1809 Sacramento St. First time on market. 2 BR, 1 BA.

John Abbott (510) 219-6334

**Sunday 2-4 \$535,000**  
Beautiful tri-level tudor condo. Spacious 2 BR, granite kit, garage, hdwd flrs, walk to UC.

Carol Heath-Kim (510) 527-9800

PruRealty.com

1click

View all luxury listings for sale

## Residential Income

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$539,000**  
2828 Richmond, Oakland. Beautiful duplex. Large unit 2 BR, 1 BA w/ remodeled kitchen + bath.

Kriss Makris (510) 339-9290

## Residential Income

**Fruitvale Duplex \$369,000**  
2 BR, 1 BA, 1 BR, 1 BA. Ready for owner or tenants. Spacious units, laundry hook-ups/sep meter, close to BART/fwy.

Cynthia (510) 869-5397

ALAMEDA  
510-337-8670BERKELEY REGIONAL  
510-868-1400CLAREMONT  
510-845-0211EL CERRITO  
510-527-9800GRAND LAKE  
510-834-2010MONTCLAIR  
510-339-9290PUEBLO  
510-428-0900



# SPORTS

• Friday, December 12, 2003 •

Section C

## ACCAL SOCCER PREVIEWS

# Yellow Jackets may be the team to beat again

Berkeley will miss key players but still should contend for the league girls soccer title

By Orlando Molina

After posting consecutive undefeated records in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League, the Yellow Jacket girls soccer team finally may be ripe for a league loss in three years.

Preventing the Yellow Jackets from winning the ACCAL title is the realignment of the league. In 2000, the Yellow Jacket lost only two league games. But Berkeley coach Sillett is not concerned.

"We don't get all worked up about casual words could be used in trying to find replacements for her two main scoring players, Annie Borton and Maura Fitzgerald. The team's points leader and a major presence on the field in terms of leadership,

### PREDICTED FINISH

- Berkeley
- Pinole Valley
- El Cerrito
- Alameda
- Encinal
- Hercules
- De Anza
- Richmond

graduated. Fitzgerald, the team's scoring leader, declined to play her senior year to follow other interests. But her departure came with advance notice, and Sillett said the split was an amicable one.

"Interests led her to other places. We parted well," she said. "New players are stepping up to fill their shoes. That's the life of a high school coach."

One of those players will be Haley Geller, a sophomore forward, in place of Borton. Sillett described Geller as the team's new go-to girl with a penchant

See GIRLS, Page 2



BERKELEY will be a tough team to beat with Kamani Hill, right, returning. He was the Times Player of the Year last season.

■ Defending league champion Richmond and Berkeley should make for a hotly contested season

By Phil Jensen

**Richmond or Berkeley?**  
The separation between these two teams is sliver-thin, and chances are extremely good that one of those squads is going to be the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League boys soccer champion this season.

Richmond returns all 11 starters from last season's ACCAL championship team. Berkeley returns nine starters including striker Kamani Hill, last season's Times Player of the Year.

The Oilers have been impressive this season, forging a 3-1-1 record and advancing to the finals of the Winter Soccer Classic Gold Division, beating De La Salle along the way.

Berkeley also has been tough to beat, earning a 6-1 record entering the opening games of the

### PREDICTED FINISH

- Richmond
- Berkeley
- Alameda
- De Anza
- El Cerrito
- Pinole Valley
- Hercules
- Encinal

ACCAL season today.

"I would say co-favorites," said El Cerrito coach Fred Gonzalez about Richmond's and Berkeley's league title chances.

Richmond returns All-Times player Jorge Rodriguez, a midfielder/forward last season who is currently playing forward. The Oilers are loaded in the midfield with Juan Cardenas, Abraham De Los Santos and Roberto Zambrano. Those players were first-team All-ACCAL picks last season.

"I feel pretty good about it. I don't want to get too excited either," Richmond coach Rene

See BOYS, Page 2



WIN CURRIER

## Flashback another generation

LAST SUNDAY, DEC. 7, known to all — or, at least should be, as the Pearl Harbor was

and, starting the United States entry into what became World War II.

Men who had left home either became first aware of updates on what was going on, got their news from public address systems in Washington and Lincoln

where they were watching Alameda Mid-Winter baseball.

A week ahead was the scheduled opening of the Alameda Recreation Department Adult Basketball Leagues basketball season was just

for both Alameda and high schools.

Pages from then on carried the latest from the front, plus instructions on what to do if an air

came, but also the day-to-day in the city. That meant checking the ads, watching movies, going out for

etc. It was all that could be done.

baseball games had been the previous but a couple of weeks had been interrupted. On Charley Tye's radio

own thanks to Hugh Luby of the Oakland Oaks second baseman) who was a player



BERKELEY QUARTERBACK Jeff Spellman was one of seven first-team ACCAL selections from the Yellow Jackets.

## Berkeley, El Cerrito well represented

■ Each school has three offensive players selected for ACCAL first-team

STAFF REPORT

Three Berkeley High School football athletes and three more from El Cerrito High were named to the All-Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League first-team offense, the league announced Dec. 7.

Representing Berkeley High were quarterback Jeff Spellman, guard Kevin McGlothen and wide receiver Aaron Miles. First-team offense honors also went to center Tyson Quink, running

back Mario Cox and utility player James Cannon, all from El Cerrito High.

The second-team offense included tackle Eric Johnson and tight end William Brown, both of El Cerrito High, and Yellow Jacket wide receiver Reberto McBean.

Quink actually was a two-way star this fall, joining fellow Gauchos Rafael Warren on the All-ACCAL first-team defense. Quink got the nod as a lineman, Warren as a linebacker.

Representing the Yellow Jackets on the All-ACCAL first-team defense were linemen Edward Young and Julian James, linebacker Alphonso Thomas and de-

fensive back Patrick Henderson.

The all-league second-team defense included lineman Daniel Burley and linebacker Daniel Aguilar of Berkeley and lineman Erik Howard and defensive back Cannon of El Cerrito.

Alameda High running back Tavis Ve'e was named the league's most valuable player. Kevin Hennessee of Alameda was named coach of the year.

### WATER POLO

Dominic Cathey and Carina Degenkolb were named MVP and co-MVP of ACCAL boys and girls water polo, respectively, the league announced Dec. 1.

Joining Cathey on the boys first team is fellow Yellow Jack-

ets field player Ian Rose.

Degenkolb, who shared girls MVP honors with Bishop O'Dowd's Lindsay White, joined two other Berkeley High players on the first team. Sade Bonilla got the nod as a field player and Nikki Bonilla earned recognition for her play at goalie.

Field player Lucy Potter was a second-teamer for the Berkeley girls. Fellow Yellow Jacket Stephanie Rodman and Juliette Jardim were honorable mention.

For the boys, Berkeley's Patrick Haescoop made the second team. Yellow Jacket goalie Sam Hammer-Nathman and field player Ian Dimen were honorable mention.

## BSAL NOTEBOOK

### Kennedy is impressive early on

By Orlando Molina

**THE KENNEDY HIGH** School boys soccer team boosted its Bay Shore Athletic League record to 2-0 to start the week after a convincing 5-1 win over Piedmont Dec. 5.

The Eagles scored all their goals in the first half before the Highlanders finally could respond with their lone goal in the 76th minute.

Kennedy scored its first goal in the 14th minute of play, but it was Ignacio Gil's goal two minutes later that would prove to be the eventual game winner.

Micky Gil added a goal and two assists and goalkeepers Angel Hernandez and Luis Bustos combined for seven saves in the winning effort.

### ALBANY GIRLS SOCCER WINS MAKEUP

The Albany soccer team's two-goal outburst in the second half propelled the Cougars to a 2-0 win over St. Mary's Monday.

Emma Kemp put the Cougars on the board first with a goal in the 54th minute. She was followed in the 73rd by Clare Kruger's goal to put the match away.

Goalkeeper Sacha Maxwell supported the win with nine stops.

## ACCAL NOTEBOOK

### Gauchos have work ahead of them

By Phil Jensen

**WHEN A DEFENDING** North Coast Section championship basketball team has only one starter returning the next season, it would appear that there would be a rough road ahead.

But the El Cerrito High School boys basketball team, which is in that situation and has only three total players returning, started this season with three wins in its first four games.

The record includes a 2-1 record in last week's Jeremy Jack Invitational at Salesian.

"It was a learning experience for us, and we improved," said new El Cerrito coach Billy Keys. "The tournament showed us what type of team we can become."

The Gauchos opened their season with a 54-51 win over

See ACCAL, Page 2

See CURRIER, Page 2



## Girls

FROM PAGE 1

for scoring.

Freshman midfielder Emily Gee also will see plenty of action along with sophomore goalkeeper Laura Dale. Dale made a critical stop during last season's shootout victory in the first round of the North Coast Section 3A playoffs against Amador Valley.

"She did an outstanding job. I think she'll be one of the best goalkeepers in the league," Sillett said.

Yellow Jackets senior Laila Nossier returns and adds veteran leadership and junior Dea Walach is another good scorer.

Although Berkeley seems primed for another title run, don't expect the rest of the league's top contenders to shy away.

El Cerrito, which finished tied for second with Pinole Valley last year, is eager to take on the Yellow Jackets today at home.

Gauchos coach Robert Sackey believes his team may have a slight edge because recent rains have turned El Cerrito's grass

field into a swamp, a far cry from the dry artificial surface to which Berkeley is accustomed.

"Historically, Berkeley doesn't like muddy fields. They can't play their passing game," he said.

But the Gauchos will start with a severe disadvantage because of leg injuries to Francesca Petroni and Keiko Narasaki.

Both were injured during the end of the club soccer season. Petroni, the team's best scorer, is likely out for the year after breaking the tibia and fibula in her right leg.

Sackey said she could come back later in the year, but she wouldn't be the same.

"Expecting her to come back is one thing, but for her to play her best is another. She's learning how to walk again," he said.

The outlook on Narasaki is more favorable. Although she tore ligaments in her knee, she is more likely to recover faster and play this season.

Expect Sackey to rearrange his lineup with a more defensive twist. Freshman Sophie Kolding will fill in for Petroni and Aria Link will step in for Narasaki. Brittany Sims, a senior, will move

from her usual striker post to midfielder.

"We're starting tough this year. It's a challenge for a coach to see that the team can play like last year or better," Sackey said.

Pinole Valley is another team looking to give the Yellow Jackets a run for their money.

The team lost a great defender in Erica Lynden to graduation but returns seniors Dana Weeks and Alana Scott.

This season's Spartans will boast more depth with the addition of freshmen Nicola Mello and Carrie Hale and sophomore Crystal Forrester.

"We pretty much have the same team with added depth," Spartans coach Chuck Thompson said.

Both Thompson and Sackey would deem it a success if they could split their season meetings with Berkeley. But as has been the case lately, such orders have been too tall to come to fruition.

"Berkeley is still the team to beat," Thompson said. "The loss of Borton and Fitzgerald helps everybody, but Berkeley has a bigger (talent) pool to pull from. To knock them off, Berkeley has

## Currier

FROM PAGE 1

Women's Golf Club. Other officers included Mrs. Wesley Morrison, Mrs. Gertrude McPheerson, Mrs. Frances Geary, Mrs. H.N. Praatt, Mrs. C.P. Price, Mrs. H.H. Pilgrim, Mrs. Jean Phillbrick and Mrs. A.H. Roberts.

In an all-iron tournament, Mrs. Parker Favier was the winner and other winners included Mrs. Conrad Rothenstein and Mrs. George McKay. Mrs. Glenn Baxter won low putting honors.

Games went on at Washington and Lincoln parks.

St. Mary's College defeated Petersen Liquors 6-5 and E. Bercovich & Son downed Ben's Golden Glow, 10-4 at Washington. Mickey's topped Boiler-makers, 6-5 and Alameda Acorns topped Kenealy Yankees, 5-0, at Lincoln.

Petersen's had some future stars in its lineup, most prominent of whom was Ferris Fain, who, after playing for the San Francisco Seals, became a two-time American League batting champion for the Philadelphia Athletics. Alameda's Lou

game topping McClymonds 26-24 with Ed Fennelly, Joe Ovalle and Augie Gouig leading the way.

Meanwhile, Washington Park girls' volleyball team won the inter-park volleyball league. The girls, 12-15 years of age, received felt emblems. The list included Rita Snyder, Irene Robinson, Evelyn Robinson, Betty Brown, Pat Young, Jenny Long, Betty Werson, Lois Francis, Joyce Bugee and Normalee Yager.

The city basketball league was set to start, but opening night games were postponed by Superintendent of Recreation Otto Rittler when orders kept the U.S. Marines of NAS Alameda and U.S. Maritime Service of Government Island from participating that night.

Other teams in the league included Pan-American, Boeing Students, Signal Oil, Ratto & Parodi and Junior Holy Names. Ratto & Parodi had played a tune-up game against Laurel AC in Oakland and scoring honors were divided by Leo Thomas and Bob Wright.

Ray Antonali, Bill Hunter, Jack Moore, Charley Souza and Joe Faulkner rounded out

the squad, but Gary mola, former Alameda scoring record holder, coaching and would be midseason resuming recuperating from an operation.

The opening night had a matchup that was the topic of a national newspaper radio story. The game was between the Marines vs. J. Alameda.

That game was but news accounts that while elsewhere in the world, the two were here, in a demo were playing.

What else sports, particularly? Who were of these basketball familiar names to Alamedans. Maybe a neighbor about are learning some. Or, very possibly, including many Americans who be taken from their homes (including potential "enemies").

We'll tell you more week

## Boys

FROM PAGE 1

Siles said of his team's fast start. "It showed some promising things."

Berkeley has Hill, who has already scored 12 goals this season. Center midfielder John O'Leary is a returning first team All-ACCAL pick, and Edgar Hernandez is a standout midfielder. Central defender Harris Cohn is part of a tough Yellow Jackets defense.

"I think they look great," Berkeley coach Janu Juarez said. "We've got a star-studded team and we have depth."

But don't count out Alameda. The Hornets started this season with a 3-1-2 record, and have common opponents with Richmond and Berkeley. Alameda tied Monte Vista, just as Richmond did. The Hornets beat Washington-Fremont, just like Berkeley did. Alameda also has defeated Deer Valley.

Center midfielder Ahmad Hatfie, a first team all-league pick

last season, returns for the Hornets. Alameda is strong defensively with sweeper Blake Bellinger, defensive wings Jamie Tench and Jordan Flores, and goalkeeper Harris Smiler. The Hornets have four returning starters.

De Anza is 5-0 with wins over St. Mary's and Albany. The Dons have six returning starters from last season's 8-6-2 (7-5-2 ACCAL) squad, which produced the team's best record in school history, according to coach Marques Dillard.

Julio Hernandez, a junior, moves from right midfielder to striker this season. Defender Isidro Tamayo is a returning starter for the Dons, and freshman defender Victor Cortez will be a player to watch.

El Cerrito has only three returning starters, but two of those are senior goalkeeper Michael Gonzalez, a first-team all-league selection, and Spencer Selak, who leads the team in scoring after topping the team last season. Left wing David Ball also is a returning starter. The Gauchos be-

gan the season 1-3-1 with new starting defenders and midfielders.

Pinole Valley has not played a game entering today's league opener. All-leaguer Wopamo Osaisai is concentrating on track and is not playing soccer this season, according to Pinole Valley coach Kelly Gould. Goalkeeper Ryan Arioli is a returning starter, and midfielders Paul Thompson and Daniel Hale could be impact players for the Spartans.

Hercules has eight players who have started games at one time or another for the Titans. Defender Antonio Garcia and midfielder Ventura Mendoza are returning starters, and freshman Julian Godinez is the Titans' leading scorer this year. Hercules is 2-0 with wins over John Swett and Alhambra.

Encinal's Daniel Zamora, a second-team all-league selection last season, has moved from midfielder to defender this season. Midfielder Giovanni Baiers will be a scoring threat for the Jets, who also have a top stopper in Seppi Henneman.

gan to come together offensively," Keys said.

Patrick Mitchell is the lone returning starter from last year's NCS Division III championship team, which had a majority of seniors on the squad. Mitchell paced the Gauchos in scoring in three of their first four games this season, including the victory over Albany. Mitchell scored 15 points in that game.

"I think his strength is that he has a solid character and that

he's a great young man and he's willing to do what it takes to be a college guard," Keys said.

Mitchell was named to the Jeremy Jack all-tournament team along with teammate Kenny Leaks, a junior guard.

"(The coaches) asked him to assume some leadership on the floor in terms of the point guard position. For his first year on varsity, he's doing well," said Keys about Leaks.

## ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

Acalanes. El Cerrito then lost to Salesian 70-58 in the first round of the Jeremy Jack Invitational but bounced back with wins against Tamalpais (65-49) and Albany (61-43) in the third-place game of the invitational.

"We improved in the tournament in rebounding, and we be-



## Wheels of Fortune

Let us take you to The Bay Area's Closest Casino.

Round-trip packages start at \$7.00

**Packages include:** \$15.00 Cash Back  
(a \$20 value) \$5.00 Bonus

FREE River Rock Casino gift  
Membership in The Players Club  
Round-trip motorcoach transportation

Pick-ups available from the following locations:

San Francisco  
Oakland  
San Jose  
Vallejo  
San Rafael  
Richmond  
El Cerrito

San Leandro  
Pinole  
Alameda  
Daly City  
Novato  
Petaluma  
Napa

Sonoma  
Oakmont  
Rohnert Park  
Santa Rosa  
Windsor  
Healdsburg

For schedules and reservations call: 1-800-254-3423



RIVER ROCK CASINO  
ALEXANDER VALLEY

707.857.1111 • 3250 Highway 128, Geyserville, CA 95441 • www.riverrockcasino.com

1600 STATE OF THE ARTS • SLOTS • BLACKJACK • THREE CARD POKER • PAI GOV POKER  
QUAIL RUN RESTAURANT • VALLEY DECK • SPIRIT GIFT SHOP

**Albany Bowl**  
"SPARE ROOM"

*Voted hottest cocktail lounge on San Pablo Avenue*

**For playing host to:**

- All Sports
- Bridal Showers / Bachelor Parties
- Wedding Receptions
- Baby Showers
- Business Meetings & Team Building
- Dart Tournaments
- Just Plain Fun

**Groups of 10 to 150**  
Great staff  
Best service  
Lots of parking  
Security service on call

*A great place to have a cocktail, relax and watch the game.*

**Albany Bowl**  
540 San Pablo Ave., Albany, CA 94706  
510-526-8818  
www.albanybowl.com

## Grab your copy of The Berkeley Voice

at these locations

SEVEN-ELEVEN .... 7022 STOCKTON  
SEVEN-ELEVEN .... 1540 SOLANO AVE.  
ANDRONICO'S MARKET .... SOLANO & FRESNO  
STARBUCKS .... 1799 SOLANO AVE  
MAX'S LIQUORS .... 865 SAN PABLO  
MONTEREY MARKET .... HOPKINS & MONTEREY  
FAT APPLES .... MLK JR WAY & ROSE  
RACK .... VINE & WALNUT  
ANDRONICOS .... SHATTUCK & CEDAR  
RACK .... EUCLID & HEARST  
RACK .... SHATTUCK & HEARST  
MC DONALD'S .... UNIVERSITY & SHATTUCK  
AU CHOCOLATE .... UNIVERSITY & MILVIA  
GRAND AUTO .... UNIVERSITY & MLK. JR. WAY  
UNIVERSITY CAFE .... UNIVERSITY & GRANT  
ANDRONICO'S MARKET .... 1414 UNIVERSITY AVE  
BRENNAN'S .... 4TH & UNIVERSITY  
BETTE'S DINER .... 1807 4TH ST  
BERKELEY BART .... SHATTUCK & CENTER  
BART .... ASHBY & ADELIN  
WHELAN'S SMOKE SHOP .... 2486 BANCROFT  
RACK .... SHATTUCK & KITTREDGE  
B OF A .... 1536 SHATTUCK  
WELLS FARGO BANK .... SHATTUCK & CENTER  
BERKELEY SUPERIOR COURT .... 2134 MARTIN LUTHER KING  
ALTA BATES HOSPITAL .... ASHBY & COLBY  
ELMWOOD PHARMACY .... 2900 COLLEGE  
RACK .... COLLEGE & ALCATRAZ  
RACK .... ASHBY & DOMINGO  
POST OFFICE .... ALLSTON & MILVIA  
GRAND LAKE SMOKE SHOP .... 3206 GRAND AVE., OAKLAND

THE BERKELEY VOICE  
HILLS NEWSPAPERS



PLAYING

...style reviews of movies  
...area theaters. Reviewers  
...Pols. Times; Robert W.  
...Luca. Chris Hewitt,  
...Knight Ridder NewsPa-  
...Ann Lovell, Bruce New-  
...Mercury News; David Ger-  
...Lemire, Ben Nuckolls,  
...Press; Dave Kehr, Elvis  
...and A.O. Scott, New York  
...Bernard, Jack Mathews,  
...Daily News; Phoebe Flow-  
...Florida Sun-Sentinel;  
...er, Bob Strauss, Glenn  
...Los Angeles Daily News;  
...Daggs, Kevin Thomas and  
...Los Angeles Times;  
...Thum, Chris Vogner, Philip  
...Dallas Morning News; Jay  
...Rogers, Sacramento Bee;  
...Boston Globe; Ann Horna-  
...Stephen Hunter, Washing-

**"SANTA":** A very dark com-  
...Santa director  
...about an alcoholic de-  
...Santa (Billy Bob  
...and his elf helper (Tony  
...the holiday season  
...lores blind. A forlorn boy  
...Santa's heart a little  
...not talking "Elf" here —  
...not a movie for  
...The humor is crass and  
...with obscurities; most  
...likely be offended  
...less delicate sensibi-  
...chuckle throughout. The  
...somewhat myopic  
...almost restrained by the  
...crude. With Bernie Mac  
...late John Ritter. — M. Pols.  
...active language, strong sex-  
...and some violence.) 1  
...minutes. B-

**"OTHER BEAR":** This Disney  
...film starts with a tribal an-  
...speaking in the Inuit lan-  
...introducing "a story from  
...when man and nature  
...by side." It is about his  
...Kenai, desperate to be a  
...man. Soon it will be time  
...wedding ceremony, when  
...will present him with  
...tolem that is fated to  
...life. Much to Kenai's ma-  
...tolem that is a bear,  
...of love. A combination of  
...to transform this adolescent  
...a healthy bear, Kenai is horri-  
...wants to get to the sacred  
...for a retransformation,  
...doesn't know where it is.

OPENING TODAY

"I VITELLONI" (NR)

Fiftieth anniversary re-release of Federico Fellini's masterpiece about a talented Italian family of artists who refuse to grow up.

"LOVE DON'T COST A THING" (PG-13)

A nerdy student persuades a popular girl to pretend to be his girlfriend and suddenly becomes popular. Urban comedy inspired by 1987's teen comedy "Can't Buy Me Love."

"SHELTER DOGS" (NR)

Director Cynthia Wade's documentary about an animal shelter in upstate New York, shot over the course of two years. (At the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, San Rafael.)

Enter Koda, a young cub who has been separated from his mother and wants to trade his knowledge of the mountain's whereabouts for some companionship. — K. Turan. (G) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C

**"THE CAT IN THE HAT":** A gross corruption of the 1957 classic children's book, painfully padded with crude, humorless humor, a multitude of piercing shrieks from child actors, and the tired antics of Mike Myers, who characterizes the cat as a cross between the Cowardly Lion and Fat Bastard. So undignified that it features a cameo by party girl heiress Paris Hilton. Contemptible and not suitable for innocent minds. The only bright note is Alec Baldwin as a villain. Skip this piece of crass commercialism; stay home and read your youngsters Dr. Seuss' book instead. — M. Pols. (PG: mild crude humor and some double entendres.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. D

**"ELEPHANT":** Close on the heels of the baffling "Gerry," another deliberately slow but impossibly dis-  
...dismiss movie from director Gus Van Sant. He's re-created the hours leading up to a Columbine-like school shooting, using unknown teen actors. Van Sant stays at a safe remove, offering no explanations or judgments. The movie's strength lies in the pervasive sense of dread you feel watching it, but once the violence starts, you start to question what purpose this movie serves. — M. Pols. (R: vio-

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE" (PG-13)

Jack Nicholson is a playboy who likes younger women. While dating one (Amanda Peet), he finds himself interested in her mother (Diane Keaton), who in turn is dating a much younger doctor (Keanu Reeves).

"STUCK ON YOU" (PG-13)

From the Farrelly brothers, a comedy about conjoined twins, played by Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear.

"YOSSI & JAGGER" (NR)

Two male Israeli officers fall in love while stationed on a remote army base on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

lence.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. B-

**"ELF":** Will Ferrell plays Buddy, a man raised by elves. With his big galoot's body, he doesn't really fit in at the North Pole, but things get worse when he discovers he's human and heads to Manhattan to find his biological father. Not long after arriving, he finds work as a department-store elf, but is fired after exposing the Santa there as a fraud. Ed Asner plays the real Santa as a crusty coot with a heart of gold, and Zooey Deschanel is terrific as a department-store elf who sparks with Buddy. Finally, though, it's Ferrell who makes "Elf" sparkle. — J. Boyar. (PG: some mild rude humor and language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

**"GI. OOMY SUNDAY":** Set in mid-1930s Budapest, this film focuses on a love triangle. Laszlo is a sophisticated Hungarian Jew who lives for two things: the restaurant that bears his name and Ilona, his hostess and lover. She's a beauty, and the restaurant is filled nightly with sighing parties of one, but she is true to Laszlo until the arrival of Andras, a smoldering young cocktail pianist. — T. Burr. (Not rated: nudity, sexual situations, brief violence; in German with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C+

**"GOTHKA":** An absurdly over-stylized mishmash of horror story, rape fantasy and formulaic thriller — the kind where the falsely accused protagonist must clear his or her

name. Halle Berry plays Miranda, an allegedly brilliant criminal psychologist (no evidence of brilliance is actually provided). She wakes up one morning, after a bad drive home, during which she bumps into a spooky ghost, and finds herself locked up in the very penitentiary where she counsels the criminally insane. She stands accused of brutally killing her own husband, an event she doesn't recall. With Robert Downey Jr., who's no help at all. — M. Pols. (R: violence, brief language and nudity.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. D

**"HONEY":** The title character (Jessica Alba) is a bartender by night, a dance teacher by day, and an aspiring choreographer 24/7. But her gifts don't stop there. She has a soft spot for underprivileged children and a deep social conscience. After she hits the big time, choreographing dance numbers in videos, Honey realizes the pull to help ghetto kids is far stronger than her dream. It's hard to know what's lazier, watching her Paula Abdul-esque rise to fame or her attempts to be Mother Teresa of the hood. — M. Pols. (PG-13: drug content and some sexual references.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C-

**"THE HUMAN STAIN":** Like the Philip Roth novel from which it is faithfully adapted, the film is an indictment of politically correct America and at the same time, a clear-eyed examination of the insidious evils of racism. Anthony Hopkins plays Coleman Silk, a classics professor disgraced when he innocently uses a word with racial connotations. He takes up with a janitor at the college (Nicole Kidman), a surprisingly believable broom pusher, which leads to an unexpected revelation about Coleman's past. May seem ponderous to those who haven't read Roth's book; to those who have will appreciate the taut, more overtly dramatic cinematic version. Wentworth Miller, who plays the young Coleman, has a future as a heartthrob. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

**"INTOLERABLE CRUELTY":** A sparkling frivolity from Ethan and Joel Coen, one that makes all the recent crop of romantic comedies seem pale and humorless. George Clooney plays a slightly despicable but dashing divorce lawyer who be-

comes enthralled with a man-killing gold digger (Catherine Zeta-Jones). Onscreen, they have the magic and chemistry of some of our great romantic pairings, and the movie is a hoot, with just enough dark Coen brothers humor to keep it edgy. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, language and brief violence.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. A-

**"KILL BILL — VOL. 1":** Peel away all that is pretentious, offensive, over-indulgent and silly about Quentin Tarantino's latest, and you're left with an action movie with fantastic music, considerable style and the mentality of a director refusing to leave the sanctuary of his 1970s childhood. Uma Thurman plays a former assassin out to avenge the death of her husband and unborn daughter. She has a list of five people to kill, Bill being the last to go. In this first volume (oh please; can you say commercial manipulation?), she tackles the first two. In February, we get the ending, which promises to be just as violent and nasty. We can hardly wait. — M. Pols. (R: violence and language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. C+

**"THE LAST SAMURAI":** Tom Cruise plays a Civil War veteran who travels to Japan to help train the emperor's army to fight like Americans. Their target is a stubborn samurai (Japanese star Ken Watanabe in a smooth, compelling performance) who won't give up the old ways. Cruise's character comes to respect the noble samurai, even to fight by his side. Sumptuously shot, with stirring battle scenes, but overly long and hampered by the very Cruisiness of Cruise. With Watanabe around, who needs Cruise as a hero? — M. Pols. (R: strong violence and battle sequence.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B-

**"LOONEY TUNES: BACK IN ACTION":** This family-friendly romp stars Brendan Fraser in a Hollywood where real show-biz types co-exist with cartoon characters. Fraser plays D.J. Drake, an unsuccessful stuntman who loses his job as a Warner security guard after botching Daffy Duck's eviction from the studio lot by an ambitious studio exec (Jenna Elfman) after her research shows that while Bugs Bunny has universal star power, Daffy appeals only to "angry fat guys in basements." Duck and wannabe stuntman end up road buddies trying to rescue D.J.'s father from the evil Acme Co. boss (Steve Martin). — D. Germain. (PG: mild language and innuendo.) 1 hour, 23 minutes. B

**"LOST IN TRANSLATION":** Everything about writer-director Sofia Coppola's wry and wistful film is lovely, and that includes, of all things, the presence and performance of Bill Murray. He plays an aging American actor in Tokyo to film commercials for a Japanese whiskey. Bored, depressed about his lousy marriage and jet-lagged, he meets a young American woman (Scarlett Johansson) who has accompanied her photographer husband (Giovanni Ribisi) to Japan. They end up wandering Tokyo together, developing a fleeting but intense friendship. Murray is at his absolute best, and Coppola proves she's a director to watch. Simple and small, but this film has a special shimmer about it. — M. Pols. (R: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. A

**"LOVE ACTUALLY":** Too long and too dense, but otherwise, the usual fare from "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and "Notting Hill" writer Richard Curtis, in his directing debut. In the weeks leading up to

Christmas, nine separate love stories unfold between various Londoners. Three of them should have been jettisoned, but there is some bawdy humor, and as feel-good movies go, this one is pretty fun. But Hugh Grant as prime minister? Oh, please. He's far too cute. Co-starring a zillion fine actors, including Alan Rickman, Liam Neeson and Emma Thompson. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality, nudity and language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B-

**"MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD":** From director Peter Weir, a beautiful and brawny retelling of Patrick O'Brian's tales of friendship and adventure on the high seas in the early 19th century. A British war ship pursues a high-tech (for the times) French ship from Brazil to the Galapagos Islands. Russell Crowe makes an able Captain Jack Aubrey and Paul Bettany an endearing Stephen Maturin, the ship's surgeon, a pacifist and Jack's best friend. The action sequences are first-rate, and the tender affection between the men aboard is something rarely seen in movies. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense battle sequences, related images and brief language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

**"THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS":** It takes a lot of forgiving and forgetting to derive any pleasure from this final chapter in the stylish man vs. machine trilogy. You have to let go of disappointment over "Reloaded," the second installment released earlier this year; you must overlook a truly hideous opening hour; and you have to forget the first "Matrix," an exhilarating experience that never succumbed, as this does, to self-conscious solemnity, senseless riddles and protracted death scenes. — P. Flowers. (R: sci-fi violence, brief sexual content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. C

**"MY FLESH AND BLOOD":** Jonathan Karsh's absorbing documentary focuses on Susan Tom Fairfield, adoptive parent to 11 emotionally and physically challenged children. The film smartly focuses on a few of the more compelling ones: There's Joe, afflicted with cystic fibrosis, bipolar disorder and assorted other maladies, and Xenia, a popular 13-year-old girl seemingly undaunted by the fact that she doesn't have legs. — G. Whipp. (Not rated: contains some language, intense family situations.) 1 hour, 24 minutes. B

**"MY LIFE WITHOUT ME":** Sarah Polley plays Ann, a 23-year-old mother of two who works on a night cleaning crew and lives with her husband, Don (Scott Speedman), in a trailer in her mother's back yard. Ann's own biography has the ring of blue-collar boilerplate: teenage pregnancy, a father in jail, a husband who has trouble finding work. Then everything changes when Ann learns she has only a few months to live. Rather than tell her family, she decides to brave it alone, compiling a list of things to do before dying, which range from the practical to the wildly self-indulgent. — A.O. Scott. (R: some profanity, some sexually suggestive scenes and conversations.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. C

**"MYSTIC RIVER":** There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direction. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim

See REVIEWS, Page C4

DAY MOVIE LISTINGS

...ings for Friday December 12

1 and 2

...at Street Berkeley 510-548-7249  
...tion Agent (R) 7, 9  
...Jagger (Not Rated) 7:30, 9:30

My Twin

...Ally, Albany 510-524-9588  
...PG-13) 11:45, 2:05, 4:30, 7,  
...of April (PG-13) 12:15, 3, 5, 7, 20,

Bay Street 16

...and St. Emeryville 510-457-4262  
...ana (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30,

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

...7975 Solano Avenue Berkeley 510-526-1836  
...EIF (PG) 7:15, 9:15  
...eStuck On You (PG-13) 7, 9:30

Parkway Theater

...1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400  
...The Human Stain (R) 6:30  
...Kill Bill Volume I (R) 9:45  
...The Matrix Revolutions (R) 9:15  
...Shattered Glass (PG-13) 7

Piedmont Theatre

...4186 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-644-2758  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:40  
...Lost In Translation (R) 1:30, 4:15, 6:45,  
...9:30  
...Station Agent (R) 12:45, 3, 5:05, 7:15,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

Shattuck Cinemas

...2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-444-2992  
...21 Grams (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45  
...Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 2:15,  
...Gloomy Sunday (NR) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45,  
...9:30

...Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 12,  
...2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40  
...eStuck On You (PG-13) 11:50, 2:10, 4:40,  
...7:10, 9:50

West Contra Costa

...Century 16 Hilltop  
...3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
...eBad Santa (R) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:50,  
...10:05  
...eBrother Bear (G) 12:10, 2:30  
...eDr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 11:25,  
...1:40, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:10  
...eEIF (PG) 11:35, 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25  
...eGothika (R) 12, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55  
...eThe Haunted Mansion (PG) 11:20, 1:35,  
...3:50, 6:15, 10:30  
...eHoney (PG-13) 11:45, 12:45, 2:20, 3:10,  
...4:40, 5:45, 7:15, 8:10, 9:45, 10:25  
...eThe Last Samurai (R) 11, 12:15, 2:15,  
...3:35, 5:30, 7, 8:50, 10:15  
...eLove Actually (R) 1:05, 4:10  
...eLove Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13) 11:30,  
...12:30, 1:55, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:25  
...eThe Missing (R) 4:30, 7:25, 10:20  
...eSomething's Gotta Give (PG-13) 11:10,  
...12:30, 2:30, 4:50, 6:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:30  
...eStuck On You (PG-13) 11:15, 2, 4:45,  
...7:30, 10:15

West Contra Costa

...Century 16 Hilltop  
...3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
...eBad Santa (R) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:50,  
...10:05  
...eBrother Bear (G) 12:10, 2:30  
...eDr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 11:25,  
...1:40, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:10  
...eEIF (PG) 11:35, 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25  
...eGothika (R) 12, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55  
...eThe Haunted Mansion (PG) 11:20, 1:35,  
...3:50, 6:15, 10:30  
...eHoney (PG-13) 11:45, 12:45, 2:20, 3:10,  
...4:40, 5:45, 7:15, 8:10, 9:45, 10:25  
...eThe Last Samurai (R) 11, 12:15, 2:15,  
...3:35, 5:30, 7, 8:50, 10:15  
...eLove Actually (R) 1:05, 4:10  
...eLove Don't Cost a Thing (PG-13) 11:30,  
...12:30, 1:55, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:25  
...eThe Missing (R) 4:30, 7:25, 10:20  
...eSomething's Gotta Give (PG-13) 11:10,  
...12:30, 2:30, 4:50, 6:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:30  
...eStuck On You (PG-13) 11:15, 2, 4:45,  
...7:30, 10:15

West Contra Costa

...Century 16 Hilltop  
...3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
...eBad Santa (R) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:50,  
...10:05  
...eBrother Bear (G) 12:10, 2:30  
...eDr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat (PG) 11:25,  
...1:40, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:10  
...eEIF (PG) 11:35, 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25  
...eGothika (R) 12, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55  
...eThe Haunted Mansion (PG) 11:20, 1:35,  
...3:50,



## Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Pols. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

**"PIECES OF APRIL":** With a theme about a dying mother (Patricia Clarkson), an estranged daughter (Katie Holmes), and a Thanksgiving dinner reunion, this film from writer/director Peter Hedges has the potential to be as cloying as sweet potato pie. But Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape") gracefully dodges that bullet, delivering a movie that manages to be darkly funny and deeply touching at the same time. Clarkson shines, Holmes advances past Joey Potter and there are lovely supporting performances from Oliver Platt as the dad and newcomer Alison Pill as the thoroughly vexing younger sister. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. A-

**"SCARY MOVIE 3":** The Wayans brothers have passed the scary-movie spoof baton to the "Airplane" guys, with tepid results. The movie has no edge, no "flava." It plays like 80 minutes of "Naked Gun" rejects, complete with an aging, less funny Leslie Nielsen, a sputtering Charlie "Hot Shots!" Sheen, and for good measure, Pamela Anderson. — R. Moore. (PG-13: pervasive crude and sexual humor, language, comedic violence and drug references.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. D

**"SCHOOL OF ROCK":** Jack Black stars as Dewey Finn in this happy, crowd-pleasing package with an offbeat, slightly demented script. He's a guitarist with delusions of being a musical deity. Fired from his latest ensemble, desperate for cash to enter a battle-of-the-bands contest and have his revenge, Dewey passes himself off as his substitute-teacher roommate (Mike White) and takes a job at a swank prep school. Put Black in a classroom of uptight, uniformed over-achievers who now have an aimless sub for a teacher, and watch the sparks fly. — R. Moore. (PG-13: rude humor and drug references.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

**"SHATTERED GLASS":** In this based-on-true-life tale, one of the '90s most infamous journalists, New Republic staff writer Stephen Glass (Hayden Christensen), gets caught making up stories. We watch, with great satisfaction, as his web of lies is slowly revealed by his editor (Peter Sarsgaard). With his effective, slimy performance, Christensen proves there is life beyond Anakin Skywalker. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B

**"THE STATION AGENT":** A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch, but you get the idea. It sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle, despite their antisocial tendencies. That they're all oddballs and misfits may sound a bit too precious, but writer-director Tom McCarthy has developed the characters beautifully. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

**"SYLVIA":** The illustrated Sylvia Plath, focusing on the love story between the doomed American poet, played convincingly here by Gwyneth Paltrow, and her husband, Ted Hughes (Daniel Craig). Christine Jeffs' film is very pretty and quite moving in places, but it doesn't shed any new light on the life and death of the last century's

most celebrated female poet. John Brownlow's script is generally overly polite and cautious, but it does make one dangerous leap, a suggestion for the motivation behind Plath's suicide that scholars will probably dispute. Paltrow's mother, Blythe Danner, shows up as Plath's mother, a great bit of casting that feels wasted when we only get one sharp, suggestive scene between them. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality, nudity and language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. B-

**"TIBET: CRY OF THE SNOW LION":** Tom Peosay's documentary is an impeccably made and often moving account of the captive nation of Tibet, forcibly annexed by China more than 50 years ago. Using material gathered during 10 years, the film functions as both a breathtaking travelogue and a political provocation, offering convincing evidence of the Chinese government's determination to wipe out Tibetan culture and identity. — D. Kehr. (NR) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+

**"TUPAC: RESURRECTION":** Those who think that Tupac Shakur faked his own death will see this feature-length documentary as more reason to believe that "Pac" lives. That's because, through the magic of clever editing of extensive MTV interviews, Shakur, who comes off as charismatic and contemplative, narrates the movie himself. The artist's criminal troubles are addressed, and he is portrayed as deeply flawed, if always aware of his own failings. Shakur's articulate arguments for his own importance are such that open-minded naysayers will have to grudgingly admit that the polarizing rapper and actor was a fascinating, talented figure. — D. DeLuca. (R: profanity, sex, violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

**"UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN":** Generalizations are risky, but anyone wanting to know the answer to the eternal question "What do women want?" (or rather, women over 35) need look no farther than Audrey Wells' frothy adaptation of Frances Mayes' best seller. A woman (Diane Lane) gets dumped, despairs, goes sightseeing in Italy, buys a run-down villa in a small Tuscan hill town, cooks fabulous meals for friends, takes a gorgeous lover and essentially assumes a whole new identity. This is how we should all be dumped. The really nice thing about the movie, aside from Lane's warm, vulnerable performance, is its focus on how we recover from lost love, rather than the pursuit of a fresh one. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B+

**"WINGED MIGRATION":** Jacques Perrin's breathtaking documentary of migrating birds transports you to an exalted realm, where nature operates under its own inviolable laws. For much of the movie, filmed over three years using five crews — including 17 pilots and 14 cinematographers — the camera flies alongside, above and below many species of birds as they make their annual round trips. It may sound facetious, but "Winged Migration" provides such an intense vicarious experience of being a flapping airborne creature that you leave the theater feeling like an honorary member of another species. — S. Holden. (G) 1 hour, 39 minutes. A

**"ZERO DAY":** This troubling pseudo-documentary, in the tradition of "The Blair Witch Project," presents itself as the video diary of two disaffected teenagers who, over a year, plot and carry out an attack on their high school. If the film leaves viewers feeling more hopeless and less enlightened, that seems to be the creators' point. Still, it resonates with a ripped-from-the-headlines topicality. The lesson, apparently, is that sometimes there are simply no answers. — A. Hornaday. (Not rated: contains profanity, violence and adult thematic material.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. B

## What gives? Where's that romantic sizzle

■ Contemporary love story fails to turn up the heat convincingly

By Mary F. Pols  
STAFF WRITER

When making a love story, it's essential to consider the kissability factor of one's stars. For a romance to work, we have to be able to project ourselves into the coupling and like what we see. But it's difficult to imagine anyone who watches "Something's Gotta Give" feeling the desire to kiss the male lead.

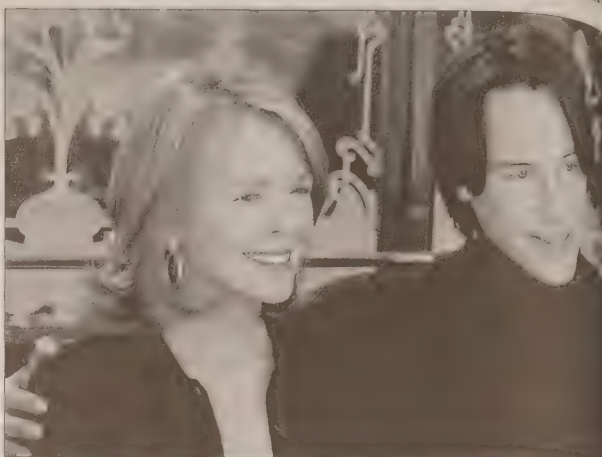
Sophisticated playwright Erica Barry (Diane Keaton) certainly makes it clear she wants to kiss raffish music executive Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson), and she even tells him he's brilliant at it. But we're confused, because from where we sit, it looks like Nicholson is clasp Keaton in a clumsy bear hug, like our smelly old uncle, and mashing his mouth onto hers without a trace of sensuality. She seems to be struggling to breathe, let alone kiss back.

The kissing sequences aren't the only parts of this movie that deviate in practice from what writer/director Nancy Meyers' script tells us in theory.

Harry is an aging playboy — no, let's be accurate and call him a thoroughly aged, portly playboy — who takes an instant dislike to uptight, controlling, disapproving Erica. Given that she meets the 63-year-old as he's about to use her Hamptons beach house to defile her lovely, not-yet-30 daughter Marin (Amanda Peet), her disapproval is understandable. After Harry suffers a mild heart attack while making out with Marin, circumstances conspire to keep him sequestered in the Hamptons with Erica.

Grudgingly, the two begin to be attracted to each other. Or so we're told. We can see with our own two eyes that there is no chemistry between Jack and Diane. In contrast, Keaton seems to be very much enjoying her scenes with the customarily wooden Keanu Reeves, who makes a darling impression here as a 36-year-old doctor named Julian who develops a crush on Erica.

The difference between Harry



**MATCH GAME:** "Something's Gotta Give," starring Amanda Peet and Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton and Keanu Reeves, ponders the dating-out-of-your-generation phenomenon.

### REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Something's Gotta Give"

■ **STARRING:** Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Keanu Reeves, Frances McDormand, Amanda Peet

■ **RATING:** PG-13 (sexual content, brief nudity and strong language)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 4 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** C

and Julian, other than 27 years, is that Julian isn't bothered at all by his attraction to Erica. He loves and respects her writing — she's described as the most famous female playwright since Lillian Hellman — and he thinks she's smart and beautiful, so why not? Harry, meanwhile, is initially horrified at the very thought of being attracted to a woman (almost) his own age. He's grossed-out by it, as if Erica, by virtue of having gone through menopause, might have the cooties.

Needless to say, this will not

endear him to many women in the audience. It doesn't help that Nicholson smirks his way through one of the limpest, phoned-in performances he's given in years. Nothing Harry says to Erica sounds sincere. When she tells Marin how soulful he is, you'll want to rewind to see if you dozed off and missed some evidence that he is anything other than a boob.

Lit with the kind of attention Barbra Streisand typically commands, Keaton looks smashing. She's also quite charming; but she alone cannot keep this flat affair afloat. There's also something unsettling about the hermetically sealed lifestyle Erica leads. Watching her walk around her blandly tasteful home in her white-on-white outfits, you feel as if you're watching an extensive campaign for Donna Karan's spring 2004 fashion and home decor line. One suspects we're witnessing Meyers' fantasy for herself, from the perfectly appointed kitchen to the script's continuous lavish praise for Erica's extraordinary word-smithing (although from the glimpses we get of her latest play, we're dubious about the latter).

The sad thing is, Meyers was on to an interesting topic here, the

strange societal double standard that has long allowed older men to date younger women, while anyone looking askance at a reverse generates a "die, die, die Robber!" magazine (witness the fascination with and Ashton). Any woman will be able to relate to the disgust when she notices an older man around her and off with young love, and the pang she experiences in spying a pair of old bodies mating and realizes how easy it could someday be for her sister Zoe (Frances McDormand) to be wasted in a small part.

There was an opportunity for an interesting energy twist, but Meyers blew it by opting for the conventional leaving us dissatisfied at being us of the female state chemistry dictated. A woman seems to be telling us that she, and lasting romance within the framework of a socially acceptable firm, abject adoration appears to hold a candle to someone who share reading glasses with

**ONLINE GAMERS  
WILL FEAR  
MY WRATH.**

Comcast High-Speed Internet  
Speed changes everything.

## Come To Ray's Christmas Tree Lot

1245 Solano Ave.  
Corner of Masonic & Solano  
**ALBANY**

Mon - Fri 12-8 p.m.  
Sat/Sun 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Variety of Trees  
& Wreaths

Sign Up Today for just

**\$19.99** a month  
for 6 months

With FREE Install Kit or  
\$50 off Professional Install\*

1.866.438.2884 / [www.comcast.com](http://www.comcast.com)

With Comcast High-Speed Internet you'll get:

- A cable-powered connection
- Up to 3 times faster than 384K DSL†
- Up to 25 times faster than 56K dial-up†
- Professional installation
- 30-day limited money-back guarantee

**Comcast**

\*Speed comparisons are for downloads only and are compared to 56Kbps dial-up and 384Kbps DSL. Maximum download/upload capped at 1.5Mbps/256Kbps respectively. Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. Many factors affect download speed. Not available in all areas. Offer available to new residential customers, or former residential customers whose accounts are in good standing as of 12/1/03. Comcast high-speed internet service during the last 60 days (and is not available to former Comcast customers with unpaid bills). Comcast Cable wired and serviceable areas. After 6-month promotional period, regular monthly service and equipment charges are \$42.95 per month for Comcast video cable customers and \$56.95 per month for non-video cable customers. Offer of \$50 off Professional Installation limited to standard installation of one existing cable outlet to one computer. Free Self-Installation Kit requires customer to be available in all areas. Shipping and handling charge of \$9.95 applies for self-installation kit. Equipment (including cable modems) and must be rented at Comcast's standard rates (\$3.00/month) or purchased at retail. Service is subject to terms and conditions of Comcast High-Speed Subscriber Agreement. Call Comcast for restrictions, minimum requirements and complete details about service and pricing. Do not include applicable taxes and fees. Pricing subject to change. Offer expires 12-31-03.



# Events

**ALARENA PLAYHOUSE** — "Thimble" by Sue Trigg, closing Dec. 14. A whimsical British pantomime featuring slapstick, jokes and slapstick humor based on the popular fairytale. Tickets: \$10 seniors and students; \$15 general; \$20 children age 12 and younger. Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. 1409 High St., Alameda 510-643-4822 or [www.alarena.org](http://www.alarena.org)

**IMPACT THEATRE** — Now permanently housed under a pizza restaurant. A dinner and show is available if you like pizza. "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 13. A fast-paced, bloody version of the tale of a Scottish nobleman's obsessive quest for power. Tickets: \$15 general; \$10 students and seniors Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4468 or [www.impacttheatre.com](http://www.impacttheatre.com)

**KIDS TAKE THE STAGE** — "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl, through Dec. 21. Charlie finds a special ticket that changes his life when it gets him a tour of the mysterious chocolate factory with lots of surprises. Tickets: \$10 general; \$8 children age 6 to 11; \$5 children age 2 to 5; free children under age 2. 510-864-7061 or [www.kidstakehstage.com](http://www.kidstakehstage.com)

**MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE** — "1940s Radio Hour" by Walton Jones, closing Dec. 13. A musical comedy featuring a "Cavalcade of Stars" rehearsing for a Christmas radio show in New York City in 1943. Tickets: \$15. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. 105 Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-232-4031 or [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org)

**OAKLAND BOX THEATRE** — "The Oakland Poetry Slam," first and third Thursdays, 8 p.m. to midnight. An open mic poetry and music event followed by a performance by touring poets of national acclaim. The night ends with a poetry slam in which poets compete to get to the finals for a place on the 2004 Oakland Slam Team. Tickets: \$10-12. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or [www.oaklandbox.com](http://www.oaklandbox.com)

**OAKLAND OPERA THEATRE** — "Four Saints in Three Acts" by Virgil Thompson and Gertrude Stein, closing Dec. 14. An opera featuring singers, an orchestra and scenic elements that represent a crossroads between traditional and high-tech. Tickets: \$20 to \$25 general; \$15 to \$18 seniors, students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oakland Metro, 201 Broadway, Oakland. 510-763-1146 or [www.oaklandopera.org](http://www.oaklandopera.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)



## Nutty nutcracker

**MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP** is again taking its wacky crack at the "Nutcracker" legacy, bringing "The Hard Nut" to UC Berkeley, tonight through Dec. 21. The dance is performed to Tchaikovsky's original score done up by members of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, and set in a vinyl-cloaked 1960s suburban household. Oh, and gender roles are toyed with, big time. "The Hard Nut," opens 8 tonight and plays 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 and 8 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 21 at Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, UC Berkeley. Tickets are \$32-\$56. Contact 510-642-9988 or [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

**PLAYGROUND** — "Monday Night Playground," Dec. 15, 8 p.m. A monthly presentation of short works from new and emerging playwrights. Tickets: \$12. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 415-704-3177 or [www.playground-sf.org](http://www.playground-sf.org)

**SHOTGUN PLAYERS** — "The Death of Meyerhold" by Mark Jackson, through Dec. 26. The life story of a Russian playwright who was vocal and brash when he lived in a world of riots and political unrest, but was left ambiguous and strangely silent in death. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. \$18 general; \$12 students; \$10 Thursdays

**THEATRE LAB** — "Heavy Days," through Dec. 19. A collaborative ensemble performance about four women who resist and succumb to the madness of everyday rituals, creating an abstract, whimsical performance. Dec. 15, Dec. 16, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, 8 p.m. At La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid St. \$10

**WILDE IRISH PRODUCTIONS** — "Endgame" by Samuel Beckett, closing Dec. 21. A poetic exploration of the nature of the human condition. The players communicate in answering echoes of heartbreak and longing and loss. Tickets: \$10-12. 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or [www.oaklandbox.com](http://www.oaklandbox.com)

**OAKLAND OPERA THEATRE** — "Four Saints in Three Acts" by Virgil Thompson and Gertrude Stein, closing Dec. 14. An opera featuring singers, an orchestra and scenic elements that represent a crossroads between traditional and high-tech. Tickets: \$20 to \$25 general; \$15 to \$18 seniors, students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oakland Metro, 201 Broadway, Oakland. 510-763-1146 or [www.oaklandopera.org](http://www.oaklandopera.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**SHAKESPEARE THEATRE STUDENT COMPANY 2003** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, closing Dec. 14. The story of two sets of identical twins separated at birth by a shipwreck whose reappearance throws a wrench into an uproar. Tickets: \$3 general, \$5 seniors, children under 12, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 14, 2 p.m. Cal Shakes, 701 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3422, ext. 130, or [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org)

**Palenque**, Dec. 19, 9 p.m. \$13  
**Mike Dread**, Dec. 20, 9:30 p.m. \$16 to \$18  
1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com)

**BECKETT'S IRISH PUB** — Serena, Dec. 11  
Autanna, Dec. 12  
Nicole McRory, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20  
Nicole and the Soul Sisters, Dec. 17  
Andy Smith Band, Dec. 18  
Seventy, Dec. 19

**Free**. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — Acoustic Wednesday with Mikie Lee Prasad and guests, Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Free  
The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays. \$4

**For ages 18 and older**. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or [www.blakesontelegraph.com](http://www.blakesontelegraph.com)

**DOWNTOWN** — Danny Caron, Dec. 12  
Denise Perrier, Dec. 13  
Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Dec. 16  
Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, Dec. 17

**Kenji El Lelbriano** Flamenco Guitar, Dec. 18  
Julie Kelly, Dec. 19  
Sylvia and the Silvertones, Dec. 20

**Free**. Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or [www.downtownrestaurant.com](http://www.downtownrestaurant.com)

**FREIGHT AND SALVAGE** — Due West, Dec. 12. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Suzy Thompson, Dec. 13. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Don't Look Back, Dec. 14. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Christmas Jug Band, Dec. 16. \$16.50 to \$17.50  
Box Set, Sonia, Dec. 18. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Hot Buttered Rum String Band, Dec. 19. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Tom Rush, Dec. 20. \$20.50 to \$21.50  
'Laurie Lewis's Holiday Revue and Freight Fundraiser,' Dec. 21. Also featuring Tom Rozum, Earl White, Cascada de Flores, Tony Marcus and Patrice Haan. \$15.50 to \$16.50

**Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted**. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, 866-468-3399 or [www.freightandsalvage.org](http://www.freightandsalvage.org)

**JAZZ HOUSE** — Robin Gregory, Dec. 13. \$8 to \$15  
The Supplicants, Dec. 17. \$8 to \$15  
Scott Hill. BustaNutCracker, Dec. 18. \$8 to \$15  
Millicent Wood, Dec. 19. \$10

**"Holiday Bluegrass Celebration"** David Thom and Homespun Rowdy, Dec. 20. 4 p.m. \$8 to \$15  
Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3152 Adeline St., Berkeley. 415-846-9432 or [www.thejazzhouse.org](http://www.thejazzhouse.org)

**KIMBALLS EAST** — Wayman Tisdale, Dec. 12 and Dec. 13. \$28  
Pamela Williams, Dec. 19 and Dec. 20. \$28  
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or [www.kimballs.com](http://www.kimballs.com)

**LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER** — Molly Holm, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. \$13 to \$15  
Mana Marquez, Dec. 13, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14  
Palm Wine Boys, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$8 to \$10  
Avotcja and Modupue, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. \$12  
Jackeline Rago and the Venezuelan Music Project, Dec. 20, 8:30 p.m. \$12 to \$14  
3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or [www.lapenna.org](http://www.lapenna.org)

**MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB** — "Sea Chanteys and Songs of the Waterways," Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or [www.mcgrathspub.com](http://www.mcgrathspub.com)

**924 GILMAN ST.** — Toys That Kill, The Frisk, Scattered Fall, Scissorhands, Love Songs, Dec. 12  
The Phantom Limbs, Nigel Peppercorn, Annihilation Time, Funeral Shock, Dec. 13  
Branoll, Street Trash, Bury The Living, Silt Wrist, Friday Night Youth Service, Dec. 19  
Plan 9, Stigma 13, Live Ammo, Brutal Death, Dec. 20  
All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or [www.924gilman.org](http://www.924gilman.org)

**OAKLAND BOX THEATRE** — "Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$1000  
1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or [www.oaklandbox.com](http://www.oaklandbox.com)

**QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE** — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050  
"SEVA SILVER ANNIVERSARY CON- See EVENTS, Page C6

**Palenque**, Dec. 19, 9 p.m. \$13  
**Mike Dread**, Dec. 20, 9:30 p.m. \$16 to \$18  
1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com)

**BECKETT'S IRISH PUB** — Serena, Dec. 11  
Autanna, Dec. 12  
Nicole McRory, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20  
Nicole and the Soul Sisters, Dec. 17  
Andy Smith Band, Dec. 18  
Seventy, Dec. 19

**Free**. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790 or [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — Acoustic Wednesday with Mikie Lee Prasad and guests, Wednesdays, 10 p.m. Free  
The Steve Gannon Band and Mz. Dee, Mondays. \$4

**For ages 18 and older**. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or [www.blakesontelegraph.com](http://www.blakesontelegraph.com)

**DOWNTOWN** — Danny Caron, Dec. 12  
Denise Perrier, Dec. 13  
Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Dec. 16  
Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, Dec. 17

**Kenji El Lelbriano** Flamenco Guitar, Dec. 18  
Julie Kelly, Dec. 19  
Sylvia and the Silvertones, Dec. 20

**Free**. Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or [www.downtownrestaurant.com](http://www.downtownrestaurant.com)

**FREIGHT AND SALVAGE** — Due West, Dec. 12. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Suzy Thompson, Dec. 13. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Don't Look Back, Dec. 14. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Christmas Jug Band, Dec. 16. \$16.50 to \$17.50  
Box Set, Sonia, Dec. 18. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Hot Buttered Rum String Band, Dec. 19. \$15.50 to \$16.50  
Tom Rush, Dec. 20. \$20.50 to \$21.50  
'Laurie Lewis's Holiday Revue and Freight Fundraiser,' Dec. 21. Also featuring Tom Rozum, Earl White, Cascada de Flores, Tony Marcus and Patrice Haan. \$15.50 to \$16.50

**Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted**. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, 866-468-3399 or [www.freightandsalvage.org](http://www.freightandsalvage.org)

**JAZZ HOUSE** — Robin Gregory, Dec. 13. \$8 to \$15  
The Supplicants, Dec. 17. \$8 to \$15  
Scott Hill. BustaNutCracker, Dec. 18. \$8 to \$15  
Millicent Wood, Dec. 19. \$10

**"Holiday Bluegrass Celebration"** David Thom and Homespun Rowdy, Dec. 20. 4 p.m. \$8 to \$15  
Shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3152 Adeline St., Berkeley. 415-846-9432 or [www.thejazzhouse.org](http://www.thejazzhouse.org)

**KIMBALLS EAST** — Wayman Tisdale, Dec. 12 and Dec. 13. \$28  
Pamela Williams, Dec. 19 and Dec. 20. \$28  
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or [www.kimballs.com](http://www.kimballs.com)

**LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER** — Molly Holm, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. \$13 to \$15  
Mana Marquez, Dec. 13, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14  
Palm Wine Boys, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. \$8 to \$10  
Avotcja and Modupue, Dec. 19, 8 p.m. \$12  
Jackeline Rago and the Venezuelan Music Project, Dec. 20, 8:30 p.m. \$12 to \$14  
3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or [www.lapenna.org](http://www.lapenna.org)

**MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB** — "Sea Chanteys and Songs of the Waterways," Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-552-6263 or [www.mcgrathspub.com](http://www.mcgrathspub.com)

**924 GILMAN ST.** — Toys That Kill, The Frisk, Scattered Fall, Scissorhands, Love Songs, Dec. 12  
The Phantom Limbs, Nigel Peppercorn, Annihilation Time, Funeral Shock, Dec. 13  
Branoll, Street Trash, Bury The Living, Silt Wrist, Friday Night Youth Service, Dec. 19  
Plan 9, Stigma 13, Live Ammo, Brutal Death, Dec. 20  
All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or [www.924gilman.org](http://www.924gilman.org)

**OAKLAND BOX THEATRE** — "Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$1000  
1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1932 or [www.oaklandbox.com](http://www.oaklandbox.com)

**QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE** — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050  
"SEVA SILVER ANNIVERSARY CON- See EVENTS, Page C6

# THE DINING GUIDE

**PASTA PELICAN TOP SIDE LOUNGE**  
"Where food and wine become fine"

**Kids Eat FREE!**  
Every Wednesday,  
one child  
per adult.  
Live Jazz every  
second Thursday.  
No cover.

2455 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda  
Open Daily  
**864-7427**  
Visit our website: [www.pastapelican.com](http://www.pastapelican.com)

Legend: \$ rating is average dinner entrée price		
AE	American Express	Entrées under \$7
CB	Card	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$20+
MC	MasterCard	
VS	Visa	Full Bar
AC	All Cards accepted	RR Reservations recommended
CA	Checks accepted	W Wheelchair access

**Pasta Pelican**  
2455 Mariner Square Drive, Alameda (510) 864-7427  
For the past four years, pasta Pelican Restaurant has been delighting its guests with a variety of unique dishes. Their extensive menu offers veal, steak, seafood, chicken classic pastas, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. Guests are raving about this waterfront restaurant for their famous fresh baked bread, fried calamari, homemade clam chowder, variety of salads, attentive, friendly service, and inviting atmosphere. All this for what is considered to be one of the best values in the Bay Area. Formerly The Rusty Pelican, the restaurant is located in Alameda, behind the Webster Tube with a spectacular view of Jack London Square and the Oakland Hills. You will truly enjoy this fine dining experience. Parking and docking are free. For reservations please call (510) 864-7427.

**Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant**  
300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621  
Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Bar Hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

**Speisekammer**  
2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda (510) 522-1300  
Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standards. Light fare such as the Gemüseschüssel (Vegetable Strudel with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Spinach. Served in a Carrot Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemütlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemütlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Stinky German. The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Panini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entrée items. Sunday Brunch is to die for! 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun. W, \$8-\$8.50, AC, FB, RR

**Pier 29 WATERFRONT RESTAURANT** PRIME RIB, SEAFOOD & COCKTAILS  
FEATURING ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE SEAFOOD MENUS IN THE BAY AREA  
**WATERFRONT VIEW WEEKEND BRUNCH**  
Saturday - Sunday 9am - 3pm  
**EARLY BIRD DINNERS**  
\$10<sup>95</sup> - \$11<sup>95</sup> • Soup or Salad - Entree - Dessert  
Sun - Thurs 3pm - 6pm • Fri - Sat 3pm - 5:30pm  
15 Entrees Available - Angus Prime Rib, New York Steak, Chicken, Fresh Petrale Sole, Snapper and Salmon, Fried Prawns, Fried Oysters, Daily Specials and More!  
300 29th Avenue, Oakland • 261-1621  
At the foot of the Park St. Bridge in Oakland. Next to the Estuary. Plenty of Free Parking, Banquet Facility Available.





## Reveling in Christmas

FANS OF the Christmas Revels know it is a lot more than just a yuletide play. The annual show, playing through Dec. 21 in Oakland, certainly celebrates the holidays, but also digs into music and culture from other places, in other times. This year's show is set in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Pictured are Revels fixture and Bay Area comedic thespian extraordinaire Geoff Hoyle and Revels castmate Danielle Brown. The Christmas Revels opens 8 tonight and plays 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 1 and 5 p.m. Sundays at the Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. Tickets are \$17-\$35. Contact 415-621-1216 or [www.calrevels.org](http://www.calrevels.org).

## Events

### FROM PAGE C5

**CERT** — Dec. 13, 7 p.m. A mostly acoustic evening with The Dead, Jackson Browne, Steve Earle, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Hamza El Din, with master of ceremonies, Wavy Gravy.

\$50 to \$75. Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley. [www.gdtsoo.com/](http://www.gdtsoo.com/) and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — Kevin Cadogan, Jesse DeNatale, Noelle Hampton, Dec. 12. \$6.

Pinback, Aspects of Physics, Dec. 13. \$12.

Guiding the Lily, Fojimoto, Ear Rotator, Singing CIA Agent, Dec. 18. A benefit for Wheels of Justice Bus Tour and Middle Eastern Children's Alliance. \$10 to \$20.

Let's Go Bowling, Aggroites, Soul Captives, Dec. 19. \$8.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

**STORK CLUB** — Fracas, Angry for Life, Dec. 12.

Stage Rage, Second Date, The Woody's, Dec. 13.

Cast of Thousands, Shoehouse, Dec. 17.

The Drogues, Giant Haystacks, Dec. 18. Marisma, They Seem Alive, Fenway Park, Four Minute Mile, Dec. 19.

\$5. All shows at 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444.6174 or [www.storkcluboakland.com](http://www.storkcluboakland.com).

**NOBODY BEATS BERKELEY!**  
'04 HYBRID PRIUS  
60 MPG!  
TOYOTA OF BERKELEY  
800-378-6968

**YOSHI'S** — Gonzalo Rubalcaba Trio, through Dec. 14. \$12 to \$20.

Arthur Blythe Quartet, Dec. 15. \$20.

Charlie Hunter Trio, Dec. 16 through Dec. 21. \$10 to \$22.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200, [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com) or [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

### CLASSICAL MUSIC

**ASCENSION CATHEDRAL** — "An International Christmas," Dec. 12, 7 p.m. A program of traditional carols. Greek Orthodox Christmas hymns, excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" and a sing-along. The Ringmasters of the Golden Gate Choir open the show at 7 p.m., followed by the concert at 8 p.m. Other performers include The Trumpet Guy, pianist Stephanie Kinsey, baritone Gus Gundunas, O Krikos Greek School Choir, the Ascension Liturgical Choir and the Prometheus Symphony Orchestra.

Free. 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. 510-531-3400.

**CHAMBER MUSIC SUNDAYS** — A series of Sunday chamber music programs by San Francisco Symphony and friends. All shows begin at 3:15 p.m.

Dec. 14: A performance of music by Dvorak, Mendelssohn and Golubev.

\$18 general, \$14 seniors, students; \$7 youth under age 18. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 415-684-5946 or [www.chambermusicundays.org](http://www.chambermusicundays.org).

**CHANTICLEER** — "A Chanticleer Christmas," Dec. 16, 8 p.m. A program of traditional carols, sacred music and rousing spirituals.

\$25 to \$37. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or [www.chanticleer.org](http://www.chanticleer.org).

**CROWDEN SCHOOL AND CENTER FOR MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY** — SUNDAYS AT FOUR — Seven family-friendly chamber music performances.

Dec. 14, 4 p.m.: "Beethoven's Birthday Bash." A program of music by Beethoven. \$12 general, free for youth ages 18 and younger. 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. 510-559-6910 or [www.thecrowdenschool.org](http://www.thecrowdenschool.org).

OAKLAND CIVIC ORCHESTRA —

"Music for the Whole Family."

Free. Veterans Memorial Grand Ave., Oakland.

**PHILHARMONIC** —

TRA —

and the

\$29 to \$60. Saturday, 8 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or [www.chanticleer.org](http://www.chanticleer.org).

**SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY** — "This Evening"

See EVENT

## Walker's Restaurant



~ 2 FOR 1 ~  
BREAKFAST OR LUNCH

Come Home to an Old Friend and Bring a Friend

\$6.00 maximum 2nd entree of equal or lesser value free with purchase of 1 entree. Exp. 12/19/03. Discount does not apply to a la carte.

Tuesday to Saturday - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Sunday - Breakfast & Dinner

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

1491 Solano Avenue, Albany 510-525-4661

**WARNING!**  
Silly Subject Matter

**THUNDERELL**

A Traditional British Holiday Party

Fridays & Saturdays 8pm Dec 5, 6, 12, 13  
Saturday & Sundays 2pm - Dec 6, 7, 13, 14

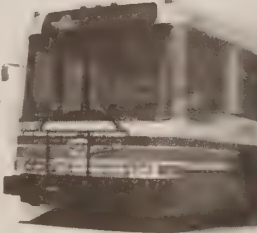
**CHILDREN UNDER 12 ONLY \$5**

General Admission \$12 / Senior-Student \$10  
Reserve online [www.altarena.org](http://www.altarena.org) or call (925) 523-1553

Altarena Playhouse 1409 High St. Alameda, CA 94501

## AC TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES

in El Cerrito



### EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 21, 2003

#### Line 68: Discontinued

**Replacement Service:** Use newly rerouted Line 70 between Richmond BART and El Cerrito del Norte BART or new supplemental school service Line 684 to Adams Middle School.

**Line 70:** Rerouted at southern end to operate from El Cerrito del Norte BART via Cutting Blvd., Arlington Blvd., McBryde Ave., Garvin Ave., 23rd St., Gaynor Ave., 20th St., Pennsylvania Ave., 19th St., 18th St., Rheem Ave., and Vale Rd., then continuing on existing route to Hilltop Green.

**Line 71:** Rerouted at southern end to operate via Carlson Blvd., Potrero Ave., S. 47th St., Carlson Blvd., Hartnett Ave., Bayview Ave., Carlson Blvd., to Hwy. 80 and El Cerrito del Norte BART. Route shortened at northern end to terminate at Richmond Parkway Transit Center.

#### Line 75: Discontinued

**Replacement Service:** Use newly rerouted Line 71 for Crescent Park area.

**Line 76:** Rerouted at northern end to operate from Contra Costa College to Hilltop Mall via Birmingham Dr., Lancaster Dr., and Del Camino Dr., then continuing to Contra Costa College via Shane Dr., Moyers Rd., and Rollingwood Dr.

**Line 684:** New supplemental school service line to Adams Middle School and El Cerrito High School from Richmond BART. Operates via Macdonald Ave. and 23rd St. to Garvin Ave., then follows the route of the discontinued Line 68.

**Line G:** Frequency reduced from every 20 minutes to every 30 minutes.

**Line H:** Schedule modified

#### Line HX: Discontinued

**Alternative Service:** Use Line H along Arlington Blvd.

**Line L:** Route extended at northern end to operate from San Pablo Dam Rd. [at Morrow Dr.] via El Portal Dr., Glenlock St., Rollingwood Dr., Church Ln., and San Pablo Ave. to El Cerrito del Norte BART, then continuing on existing route. Stops on San Pablo Ave. limited to Potrero Ave., Moeser Ln., and Carlson Blvd.

#### Line LB/LB1/LC: Discontinued

**Alternative Service:** Use Line L along San Pablo Ave.

Pick up new pocket timetables on the bus.

For more information about these and other changes, visit [www.actransit.org](http://www.actransit.org) or call 511 or 817-1717.



Please recycle this newspaper

Share the Spirit

With Share the Spirit funds, the

**BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION**

provided over 9000 Thanksgiving dinners and 200 holiday food baskets to our neighbors in need

SHARE THE SPIRIT, sponsored by the CONTRA COSTA TIMES and administered by THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF CONTRA COSTA, is an annual fundraising campaign to help those in our community who need assistance.

EVERY CENT of your donation will be directed to one of 32 non-profit service agencies in our community. Last year, these agencies helped more than 40,000 hungry, sick and disadvantaged members of our county.

PLEASE join the Contra Costa Times and the Volunteer Center in supporting SHARE THE SPIRIT. THE DEAN & MARGARET LESHER FOUNDATION will match the first \$25,000 we raise and help us meet our goal of \$200,000.

My contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

I prefer my contribution to designated to one of the following:

☐ Volunteer Center of Contra Costa ☐ Volunteer Center of Alameda

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to designate my contribution ☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

You ☐ may ☐ may not publish my name (name will be published in the Times if no box is checked).

Mail this form with your check or money order to:

The Times Share the Spirit Fund  
PO Box 8117, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8117

For information, call 925-943-8105



EVENTS

**THE JONCOR ENSEMBLE** performs the Christmas past and present. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 1777 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-842-9988 or www.stjohns.org

**THE TOM RIGNEY AND FLAMENCO** Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance. 510-842-9988 or www.tomrigney.com

**THE SUNDAY** Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance. 510-842-9988 or www.sunday.com

**THE HARD** Dec. 12 through Dec. 21. A contemporary, modern and classical dance. 510-842-9988 or www.hard.com

**THE MOTHERLODE** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.motherlode.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

**THE MOUNTAIN BLVD.** Dec. 12 through Dec. 13. A hip-hop concert and fundraiser with a theme, featuring performers. 510-842-9988 or www.mountainblvd.com

510-597-1056 or www.newsthemotherlode.com

**OAKLAND BALLET** — "Holiday Magic," through Dec. 17. A series of performances of selected dances from the "Nutcracker." Sponsored by Mervyn's and YMCA of the East Bay. The evening includes dinner and the hour-long performance. Dinner is at 6 p.m.; performance begins at 7 p.m. \$5 general; \$2 youths age 18 and under.

Dec. 17: Paramount Theater. NO DINNER AT THIS LOCATION. 510-451-9622. www.ymcaeastbay.org

"All Star Night and Community Night at the Ballet," Dec. 19, 7 p.m. The 17th annual event features Bay Area sports and media celebrities in roles on stage with the dancers. \$20.

"Nutcracker," Dec. 20 through Dec. 23. A two-act version of Tchaikovsky's holiday fantasy that begins at Clara's Victorian party and follows her on a dreamy, magical journey to the Land of the Sweets with the nutcracker her grandfather gives her. Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, 2 p.m. \$10 to \$55.

Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-625-8497 or www.oaklandballet.org

**STARRY PLOUGH PUB** — "Dance Class & Ceili," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082

**OUTDOORS**

**BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS** — A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors.

**OHLONE GREENWAY** — A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Alchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway. Suitable for strollers and skaters. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Condon and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley. 510-215-4382, 510-528-5759 or 510-644-8566

**SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL** — A 3-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line. The tree-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medea Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. 510-238-7275

**BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL** — The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

READ IT AND WEEP BY SHERRY O. BLACKARD / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Spot of bubbly?</p> <p>7 View from 1 mountainous Intl. Airport</p> <p>13 Workers with lines</p> <p>20 Some time</p> <p>21 Conger</p> <p>22 The gardener in "The Marriage of Figaro"</p> <p>23 In other words, mom or dad will have to operate it</p> <p>26 Actress Bening</p> <p>27 Obey</p> <p>28 What's left in France</p> <p>29 Co-star of TV's "Obama &amp; Greg"</p> <p>31 Smut of the N.B.A.</p> <p>33 Article of the Louvre</p> <p>34 In other words, no way it'll perform as advertised</p> <p>43 "Two Years Before the Mast" author</p> <p>44 Math calculations</p> <p>45 Morale of "The Y.P.D. Blue"</p> <p>46 Exhibitionist, informally</p> <p>50 "Mockingbird" singer Fox, 1963</p> <p>52 Word from a scoundrel</p> <p>56 In other words, "I'll break in 24 hours"</p>	<p>60 Ticket info</p> <p>61 Heartache</p> <p>62 Preceder of an un-altered name?</p> <p>63 Four quarters</p> <p>64 Relatives of "Gee whiz!" and "Shucks!"</p> <p>67 Marvel Comics heroes</p> <p>69 Dentist's ondes</p> <p>71 Hammerin' Hank</p> <p>73 Tokyo before 1868</p> <p>74 Not "neath"</p> <p>75 Cense or memento.</p> <p>76 Male legally effective</p> <p>78 In other words, mom or dad will be out at midnight searching for an open store</p> <p>86 Book closing</p> <p>87 New Look designer</p> <p>88 Sympathetic response</p> <p>90 Work without (bed)ump</p> <p>92 Imagined</p> <p>95 Pieces of one's mind? Abbr.</p> <p>96 In other words, it comes in 100 tiny pieces</p> <p>102 See 108 Across</p> <p>103 Hula hoop?</p> <p>104 Depletes</p> <p>105 ... cello (footnote phrase)</p> <p>108 With 102 Across, a candy counter since 1962</p>	<p>112 More compact</p> <p>117 In other words, you must spend \$500 more to please your child</p> <p>120 One way to stop "whiz!"</p> <p>121 Go-getters</p> <p>122 Promised land</p> <p>123 Minds</p> <p>124 Cartoonist Tex and others</p> <p>125 One of the smart set</p>	<p>19 Sound units</p> <p>24 Webster's entries Abbr.</p> <p>25 Prof. "begin"</p> <p>30 Hardly fresh</p> <p>32 Message on a candy heart</p> <p>34 M.F.L. stat. Abbr.</p> <p>35 Home of Islam Palace</p> <p>36 Spanish articles</p> <p>37 Steak tartare ingredient, maybe</p> <p>38 Chrysler Building feature</p> <p>39 Wind on the wall in Daniel</p> <p>40 "Wai"</p> <p>41 Lo</p> <p>42 Granular snow atop a glacier</p> <p>47 Hurl piece</p> <p>48 Hudson Bay prov.</p> <p>49 Anna Karenina husband</p> <p>51 Court defense</p> <p>53 Reputation</p> <p>54 Game of chance</p> <p>55 Fall locale</p> <p>57 Blow away</p> <p>58 Prince, e.g. locally</p> <p>59 Good guy</p> <p>64 Corporate woe</p> <p>65 Wife of Esau</p> <p>66 Do, for example</p> <p>68 Equine star</p> <p>69 I like one who fans</p> <p>70 National Galleries architect</p>	<p>71 Onco flow</p> <p>72 Peace Nobel Sakharov</p> <p>74 Tough row to hoe</p> <p>75 Biblical peak</p> <p>77 Martingale, par example</p> <p>79 Kind of spirit</p> <p>80 I can't stand</p> <p>81 Phoebe or con</p> <p>82 What's expected</p> <p>83 Salt peter, to a Brit</p> <p>84 One who is just looking</p> <p>85 Venetian bigwig</p> <p>89 Currency exchange board abbr.</p> <p>91 Hies over the Nile</p> <p>93 Four-time Indy 500 winner</p> <p>94 Head scratcher</p> <p>96 Face-up</p> <p>97 Some voracity women</p> <p>98 "Dear" ones</p> <p>99 She, to Sophia</p> <p>100 Business necessity</p> <p>101 Bizarre th. midnight oil</p> <p>102 See 108 Across</p> <p>106 I like states</p> <p>107 Clear-whine role for Julia</p> <p>109 Tad</p> <p>110 Mid 6th century</p> <p>111 Head start</p> <p>113 "I have good authority"</p> <p>114 Passbook abbr.</p> <p>115 Essayist's alias</p> <p>116 Tom Clancy hero</p> <p>118 CPR specialist</p> <p>119 I return address</p>
--	---	---	---	--

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** — "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides," Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. A vigorous ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks. Reservations required. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: In front of the North Berkeley BART Station. 510-849-9650

**CRAB COVE VISITOR CENTER** — CLOSED THROUGH FEB. 28

**DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE** — Nestled in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

"HOLIDAYS AT DUNSMUIR" — through Dec. 21. The mansion will be decorated for the holidays with a tree in every room as well as with garlands, wreaths and other appropriately elegant turn-of-the-century decorations. Docents will lead visitors on guided tours through

the Mansion's many rooms and floors. See the beautiful Tiffany skylight, the wood-paneled Billiard Room, the Grand Staircase and the magnificent dining room. Wear low-heeled, soft-soled shoes. No high heels allowed in the Mansion. In addition, the grounds will be open for strolling and there will be carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides for hire, craft booths, children's activities and visits from Father Christmas. Holiday teas and luncheons will be available for an additional fee. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$11 to \$15 general; \$10 to \$14 seniors; \$7 to \$11 youths. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

**HOLIDAY TEAS AND LUNCHEONS** — Children's Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 11:15 a.m. Reservations required. \$23 general; \$16 per child. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

Adult Tea: In the Dinkelspiel House. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Reservations required. \$23 general. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

**Luncheons:** In the garden Pavilion. Saturday and Sunday, noon. \$20 per person. 925-275-9490 or www.dunsmuir.org

**ESTATE GROUNDS** — through December. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Free Self-Guided Grounds Tour booklets are available at Dinkelspiel House. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free

Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-615-5555

**KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** — The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees

\$4 parking. Through February: daily, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road El Sobrante. 510-223-7840 or www.ebparks.org

**OAKLAND ZOO** — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are

"The African Savanna" with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits, the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions. "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat

See EVENTS, Page C8

# No springtime in Orinda, just new growth in Pleasant Hill.

John F. Kennedy University is moving its main campus to 100 Ellinwood Way in Pleasant Hill. Classes start at our new location January 2004. There's still time to enroll for the Winter Quarter.

Our programs are designed specifically with you and your busy schedule in mind. JFK University offers evening and weekend courses leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates from our schools of Law, Management, Psychology, Holistic Studies, Liberal Arts and in Continuing Education.

At John F. Kennedy University, outstanding faculty, administrators and caring staff work with you in fulfilling your educational goals. From academic advising, to writing that first paper, to shaking your hand at graduation, we are there to help you succeed. JFK University is accredited by WASC.

Find out how people just like you are making their dream of further education possible. John F. Kennedy University has campuses in Pleasant Hill, Berkeley and Campbell. Call us today at 800.696.5358 or visit us at www.jfku.edu.

JOHN F. KENNEDY UNIVERSITY

INSPIRING DREAMS. REALIZING POTENTIAL.



www.jfku.edu

John F. Kennedy University is moving to 100 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Classes start January 2004.



4038 Piedmont Ave. • (510) 653-8181  
"Your One-Stop Gourmet Center"



**entis**  
**PAGE C8**  
 Meetings are Friday, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. No meetings on major holidays. Call on a Friday or on Saturday, 925-447-6837.  
**DISPATCHED LECTURER SE-**  
 Series of monthly lectures featuring the finest speakers in the area. Topics range from the history of the planet to the future of the universe. Reservations suggested. Ten MegaDome Theater, 510-336-7373 or www.chabotpsd.org.  
 12:30 p.m. - "Gamma Ray and the Cosmos" New Window on the Cosmos with Rick Norman, astronomer. The Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Norman will talk about the birth of the cosmos and how astronomy has been revealed in more detail than ever before. The past decade with the help of astronomers to view the universe presented by the Hubble Space Telescope and neutrinos.  
**EVENTS - Discovery Club,** this after-school club is limited to 25 members. Participants must register by Dec. 10. Call 510-336-7362.  
 5:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. - "Want to be an Astronaut?" Find out what it takes to prepare for before travel in space, what types of clothing and what they eat, and how to be an astronaut for a day.  
 "Flying High" through Dec. 31 marks the 100th anniversary of flight with hands-on activities. The physics of flight, the history of flight, the impact of flight on everyday lives. Build air models, kites, parachutes and hot air balloons. Free with general admission. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 26 and Dec. 29 through Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Family Science Workshop: "Fun With Flight,"** Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. From the sands of Kitty Hawk in 1903 to the outer edges of the solar system in 2003, no other invention has made such an indelible imprint on the world as the airplane. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Flight, build some flying wood and paper airplane models and examine some basic principals of flight \$10 to \$20 general; \$5 to \$10 youth.  
 "Mervyn's Saturn Symphony," Dec. 13, 2 p.m. A musical interlude for children. For ages 12 and younger. Free with admission.  
 "Mervyn's Saturn Storytelling," Dec. 13 through Dec. 21. Space-related stories for the younger crowd. For ages 7 and younger. Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Free with admission.  
 "Garden Days in the EnviroGarden," Dec. 20, noon to 4 p.m. The Education Department's Environmental Science program hosts a special afternoon of activities designed to teach about air quality, gardening, composting and solar energy. Free with regular admission.  
 "Saturn Claus Kids Party," Dec. 21, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Celebrate winter solstice with a planetarium show, a space craft or a visit with the outer space visitor, Saturn Claus. \$11 general; \$8 youth and seniors.  
**ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM -** Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors in the world. CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE. \$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children plus Center admission.  
 "Ringworld," ongoing. The planet Saturn has long fascinated all who have looked through a telescope to see its beautiful rings. The West-Coast premiere

explores Saturn and highlights the Cassini-Huygens mission, a spacecraft arriving at Saturn in the summer of 2004.  
**TEN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER** - A 70-foot dome-screen auditorium Showtimes subject to change. CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE. \$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children age 4 to 12 plus Center admission except for evening shows at 8:30 p.m. 510-336-7373 or www.ticketweb.com  
 "Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West," ongoing. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's expedition of discovery from 1803 to 1806, the Center presents this film that traces the explorers' route across the rugged American West to the Pacific Ocean, dramatizing their remarkable and perilous 8,000-mile journey through buffalo-filled prairies, thick forests, raging river rapids, and over towering peaks and plunging precipices.  
 "To Fly," through February 2004. Explore human ingenuity and the universal desire to fly. See the country from on high, floating over the Vermont landscape and Niagara Falls in a helium balloon. Thrill to the precision of the Blue Angels and hang glide above Hawaiian Islands.  
 "The Human Body," ongoing. This new show explores the daily biological processes that go on in the human body without our control and often without our notice. This amazing story is revealed in detail on the giant screen.  
 "The Living Sea," ongoing. The film celebrates the beauty, power and importance of the ocean. Produced in association with The National Maritime Center, the Ocean Film Network and Dr. Robert Ballard.  
 Sci-Fi Film Monthly Adventure Film Series. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. \$5.

Dec. 12 and Dec. 13: "Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade" (PG, 1989).  
**OBSERVATORY COMPLEX -** Explore the night sky through the eight-inch and 20-inch refractor telescopes, Leah and Rachel, and now additionally through the new 36-inch reflector telescope Nellie. Through March: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., weather permitting. Free.  
 Center Admission: \$11 general; \$8 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under. Planetarium or Megadome Theater: \$6 general, \$5 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under. Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.chabotpsd.org  
**LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE EXHIBITS -** Jelly Belly Presents "Candy Unwrapped," through Jan. 4 Visit 17 interactive stations to learn about the science behind candy. Learn about taste buds on a giant tongue suck sour candy as cameras catch reactions, and find out how insects can be delicious. Climb on a "rock candy" mountain or find out what puff-puff and barfi are.  
 "Forces That Shape The Bay," ongoing. A science park that shows and explains why the San Francisco Bay is the way it is, with information on water, erosion plate tectonics and mountain building. You can ride earthquake simulators, set erosion in motion and look far out into the Bay with a powerful telescope from 1,100 feet above sea level. The center of the exhibit is a waterfall that demonstrates how water flows from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay and you can control where the water goes. There are also hands-on erosion tables and a 40-foot-long, six-foot-high, rock compression wall.  
 "The Amazing Maze," ongoing. In a 1,000 square foot area there is a maze

of colorful, eight-foot-high plastic panels that will take you this way and that and challenge you to find a way out. For all ages.  
**ONGOING PROGRAMS -** Free after museum admission.  
 Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and above; children under age 10 accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Biology Discovery Lab. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
**HOLT PLANETARIUM -** Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted to any show except "Flying High" at 1 p.m. \$3 general; \$2.50 for ages 18 and under in addition to regular museum admission. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.  
 "Constellations Tonight." Using a simple

star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations of the season on the planetarium sky. Keep the map and try to find the constellations in the real nighttime sky. For ages 6 and above.  
 "Flying High." Take an imaginary trip into space. Start by speeding through a whole day in the planetarium "time machine," and learning to identify the Big Dipper. Take off with the launch of a spaceship and learn how things move in space, how astronauts eat food in a weightless environment, and how satellites are put into orbit. Age 4 and up.  
**SPECIAL EVENT - "Meet Ms. Fizzle,"** Dec. 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Find out what bees and hives are all about with Ms. Fizzle and friends.  
 \$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 5 to 18; \$4.50 children age 3 to 4; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

## Bay - Fine Marble & Granite, Inc.

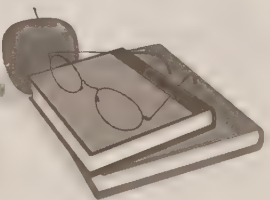


**Granite Kitchen Countertop**  
 (Price based on 16 Linear feet, 1 top-mount sink cutout)  
 Also specialize in vanity tops, Fireplace surrounds, custom jobs! Quality, Affordable & 7 to 10 days turn around

1616 Doolittle Dr., San Leandro, CA 94577  
 Tel: 510-895-9891 • Fax: 510-895-9781  
 Email: fineworks2098@aol.com  
 Mon.-Fri. 8 am - 5:00 pm • Sat. 9am - 4 pm

Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

# SCHOOLS In Our Neighborhoods

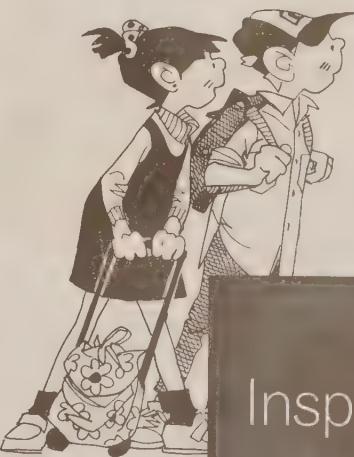


## THE CROWDEN SCHOOL

Music goes beyond words in its power to express human emotion. It is both the form and the content of human experience, being both exquisitely precise and deeply ambiguous. For children, it constitutes the ultimate education and preparation for life."  
 -John Adams, Composer

The Crowden School is a full academic day school specializing in the musical growth and education of children in grades three through eight. Introducing grade three in Fall, 2004! We are a non-profit organization admitting students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

**THE CROWDEN SCHOOL**  
 1475 Rose Street  
 Berkeley, CA 94702-1255  
 (510) 559-6910  
 info@thecrowdenschool.org  
 www.thecrowdenschool.org



## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Golden Gate Apple School, 379 Colusa Ave., Kensington, CA, admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Grades K-12. (510) 526-8570

## ARCHWAY SCHOOL

We invite you to our Kindergarten Open House, Wednesday, December 10, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Grades, K-8, Thursday, December 11, 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:25 a.m. Call to sign up. (474) 744-1111 archwayschool.org



To advertise on this special page call John Whittaker at 510-748-1663

Inspiring a sense of wonder



- WE OFFER:**
- Academic excellence
  - Montessori curriculum
  - Commitment to the arts
  - Unparalleled music program
  - Spanish and French immersion
  - International community
  - Age 2 years through 6th grade

Call 510.531.8566 to schedule a tour



# Aurora

Grades K-5  
 Culturally diverse  
 Hands-on learning  
 Integrated curriculum  
 Multi-graded classrooms  
 Academically challenging  
 Strong community base

To sign up for a school tour in November, December or January call Lisa Piccione at (510) 428-2606. 40 Dulwich Road, Oakland, CA 94618 www.auroraschool.org

## OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE - 03/04

Sunday,	December 14, 2003,	1pm - 3pm
Sunday,	January 11, 2004,	2pm - 4pm

Join us on a tour of the campus and get your questions answered.





[illegible]

Legal Notice

[illegible]

be less than the total

**Information Repositories.** Copies of the Plan, the Notice of Exemption and other site documents are available for your review at:

**CANCELLATION**  
OF THE BERKELEY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
MEETING

THE PREVIOUSLY NOTICED SPECIAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 16, 2003 AT 6:30 P.M. OF THE BERKELEY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE  
WEST BERKELEY PROJECT AREA OCEANVIEW GARDENS APARTMENTS LEASE EXTENSION  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: IRIS STARR,  
AICP, REDEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR AT 981-7520; EMAIL [ISTARR@CI.BERKELEY.CA.US](mailto:ISTARR@CI.BERKELEY.CA.US)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**  
BERKELEY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2134 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY**  
**WEST BERKELEY PROJECT AREA**  
**OCEANVIEW GARDENS APARTMENTS LEASE EXTENSION**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2003, 6:30 P.M.**

In accordance with California Community Redevelopment Law (CRL), the City of Berkeley Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") proposes to approve a fifty-seven (57) year ground lease extension with AF Evans Company, Inc. for the Oceanview Gardens development at 813 Delaware Street. This long-term lease extension will provide for the continued management, upkeep, and affordability of these 62 units of low-income housing.

At least one public hearing and the testimony of all interested parties for the purpose of reviewing the disposition or encumbrance of redevelopment property or Agency land. If you wish to review the lease document or need further information, please contact: Iris Starr, AICP Redevelopment Coordinator at 981-7520; email [Istarr@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:Istarr@ci.berkeley.ca.us).

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Mission Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, in order to ensure delivery to all agency members and inclusion in the agenda packet. Comments received no later than Monday, December 8, 2003, will be included in Agency agenda packets. Comments received thereafter will be submitted to Agency members as supplemental communications at the meeting. For further information, call Sherry M. Kelly, City Clerk, 981-6900. FAX: (510) 981-6901. TDD: (510) 981-6903.

---

Daniel S. Gitterman

10

15

## Home?

## WILLIE? Pool Estate 8 1/2

## Real Estate & Home

A/CDAD/EDC

## APPENDIX 1

JOURNAL • THE MONTCLARION

[illegible]



# Factor no Scrooge when it comes to emotion

By Mike Adamick  
STAFF WRITER

A year ago, he shivered. He was crotchety and grumpy. But when Christmas may be coming, he wanted none of it.

This year, he's not shivering. He's not crotchety and grumpy. But while people expect some change in his appearance, he's still the same old Ebenezer Scrooge. He's still the same old miser who, at a turn about in holiday, manages to win the end.

After all, you see, is Ebenezer Scrooge, a 65-year-old resident of the Montclair district — a former funeral home director and death-scene investigator — will reprise his role as the grumpy miser for "A Christmas Carol," which kicks off its weekend run in Alameda.

Scrooge is working on an act that is a time when most of us are approaching retirement. He grew up singing and dancing in Minnesota, he said, has started in plays and films. He even landed a role in the Hollywood "Hill."

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** "A Christmas Carol"

**Where:** Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda

**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14

**Cost:** \$7-\$9

**Questions:** Call 510-472-8165.

In his second year of playing Scrooge, Toliver said he brings both acting chops and a little of his own life history to the role.

"This year, I'm directed to play him more like George C. Scott or Patrick Stewart, more in control, more upright," Toliver said. "This year, I'm confronting the ghosts, 'Who are you, sir?' I'm a little more confrontational with the ghosts and my nephew. They're invading my space!"

Toliver is the antithesis of Scrooge's early role in the holiday tale, he said. With more than 20 children from throughout the Oakland hills and the entire East Bay in the cast, the play has made him enjoy the holiday season even more.

"I already love children, but this magnifies my feeling about children to see them participate

in the holiday spirit," Toliver said. Though Toliver can't match Scrooge's mean persona, there is a link between fiction and reality that Toliver draws on to get into character. Both the actor and the character come to the play with a tragic background.

"Me and my four siblings were abandoned when I was 8," Toliver said. "I can feel the loneliness in Scrooge, the lack of self-esteem that Scrooge hides behind his coin box; some of my life goes into Scrooge — in a few parts, I'm really sensitive to the writer, to (Charles) Dickens," Toliver said.

Not all the time, though. Getting into character still requires a bit of special preparation, he said.

"I actually have to flip the coin over and put the energy into being omnipotent and callous; I play the part from the perspective that he was neglected as a child, he got left alone, his father blamed him for his mother's death," Toliver said. "When I'm finished being in character, I smile."

Toliver grew up in St. Paul, Minn., and remembers singing and dancing and performing as a child. "I was always kind of a clown, an actor," Toliver said. He

spent much time writing, and has a screenplay in the works.

But Toliver says his life took on a different focus when he worked for about a decade as a funeral home director in San Francisco and then as a death-scene investigator for the San Francisco County medical examiner — before retiring recently after 15 years on the job.

"You get a lot of emotion dealing with that," he said. "I have a lot of emotion, and if the parts call for it, I can act it out."

Director Danny Buell praised Toliver's performance and said the production is ready for its weekend run.

"The Scrooge we have, Bill Toliver, is real powerful, real good," Buell said.

As for Toliver, he's excited to be starting a new act in his own life. "I've just now begun to focus on my acting career," he said.

It is Buell's third year directing the play, after spending about 15 years with the production when it was held at Mills College.

"People really expect to see a good show when they see the 'Christmas Carol,'" he said.

Reach Mike Adamick at 510-339-4061 or at madamick@cc-times.com.



JOANNA JHANDASTAFF

**ROB DEHLINGER** played Bob Cratchit to Bill Toliver's Scrooge during a rehearsal at of "A Christmas Carol" on Tuesday at Mills College in Oakland. The play will be staged Dec. 12-14 at the Kofman Auditorium in Alameda.

# "Thinderella!" a rollicking send-up

By Tom Billings  
THEATER CRITIC

All know what "pantomime" is, don't we? It's theater without words. Right?

Well, surprise! Not in all there's a genre of theater called Panto. It's called Panto for short — Panto for short is about as wordy as it gets.

For non-Brits, a taste for Panto is acquired, sort of like a taste for warm bitter or chips with malt vinegar, but you're hooked, you're hooked for life.

Pantomime is in for a rare Alameda Playhouse "Thinderella," an authentically inspired by Lynne and brilliantly cobbled together and directed by Sue. Authentic British ex-pats, is gracing the boards tonight.

There, this loony kind of Panto can quickly be habit forming.

Thinderella is the ultimate form of Panto theater. The audience is absolutely required to cheer and boo, and warnings to the heroes lurking perils, booing the villains they lurk, and being away along with the rest of the cast.

In standard Panto tradition, musical numbers in "Thinderella" are easily recognized tunes, but with skewed lyrics. Indeed, almost everything is upside down and ultra campy. Many of the female roles are played by men in drag, and vice versa.

**SEE IT**

"Thinderella," at Altarena Playhouse, a send-up suitable for all ages of the classic fairy tale in the mode of British musical comedy Pantomime, runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. through Dec. 14. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$5 for kids under 12. For reservations, call 523-1553 or go to [www.altarena.org](http://www.altarena.org). Altarena Playhouse is located at 1409 High St., Alameda.

don't tell."

The eponymous role, the only straight character in the whole show, and only marginally so at that, is ably dispatched by Dana Zook. Her ugly sisters, and they are really ugly, are convincingly assayed by Richard Ryan as Myopia and John Lathbury as Lysterine. The stepmother, Iyama Tramp, as lusty as she is wicked in this incarnation, is played by Jennifer Lucas.

Mary Passeri is appropriately regal as Prince (please don't squeeze the) Charmin', scion of Baron Hard-Up played by Ray Mark, whose chief horse-holder Velcro, played by Patrick O. Sanchez, sticks around to try small shoes on eager large feet.

Tony Davis is a nicely assertive Buttons and Rimma Dreyband a brightly Spot. Oonagh Kavanagh is the shopaholic Mall Flanders. Susan Warwick is Penny Wise.

Top marks, as Brits might say, to Cristina Lazo for charming choreography and to Joe Simiele for energetic musical direction and conducting of the four-sided pit orchestra.

"Thinderella" is definitely enjoyable theater for children of all ages, so be sure to bring the kids and grandkids with you.

**Ballet**

FROM PAGE C12

Two years ago, Dawson and Herst decided to resurrect the show, and took the scenery and costumes out of storage. "It took us four months just to (weed through everything) to see what was usable," Dawson said.

Herst's friend, Maureen Simoneau Sullivan, who worked for Walt Disney, designed many of the costumes.

Cast and crew for this year's "Twins the Night Before Christmas" production totals about 50 people, Dawson said. Many of the performers are local students enrolled Glenview Performing Arts Center ballet classes. Others live throughout the Bay Area, and auditioned in September for parts in the production. Professional adult dancers round out the cast.

Even Herst's son, C.V., has flown from Brussels to Oakland to perform this year. In the role of Clement C. Moore, C.V. narrates the show. "As the lines are being spoken, then the action comes to life,"

Herst explained. C.V. also appears as the father in the production.

The performers wear 150 different costumes during the performance.

A month in the making, the sugar plum fairy costume is breathtaking. The deep purple velvet bodice is trimmed with iridescent beads and hand-sewn leaves, and about 1,000 Swarovski white and sapphire crystals decorate both the bodice and multi-layer purple and magenta tulle tutu. The beading and crystals were all applied by hand.

"It's a pretty elaborate piece, and it's incredibly labor-intensive, but this is one of those costumes that we'll keep for 10 years," Dawson said.

"Last year when we got the (costumes) out of storage, we didn't have a sugar plum costume because it was destroyed," Dawson explained. "So we rented one and fixed it up really fast. Since (the sugar plum fairy) is such an important part of the show, we just had to build one."

The tree spirit, snow spirit and snow queen costumes are daz-

zling as well.

"This is all done with crystals," Dawson said, holding the glittering snow queen collar that he recently touched up. "When I rebuild stuff, I build it to last. It looks so good on stage — you can tell the difference between a costume that was thrown together and a costume that really has had time put into it."

Intimate table seating adds to the magic, as well as the holiday decorations displayed throughout the theater.

Herst believes her production is very special, and she hopes that audiences enjoy watching it as much as she enjoys producing it.

"It's a very intimate atmosphere," she said. "I hope that they get the spirit of Christmas and that they enjoy it."

As an added treat, Mrs. Claus will be at the quaint Tudor-style theater prior to the start of the production serving special holiday goodies, and encouraging children to drop a line to Santa Claus.

For information about ballet classes at the Glenview Performing Arts Center, call 510 531-0511.

- SELLERS**
- Power fiction**
- 1. **Michael Crichton, Dan Brown, \$19.95.** An exhilarating blend of science fiction, intelligence, relentless action and cutting wit, Robert Langdon is introduced in "Angels and Demons" as a new adventure that takes the punch of Robert Ludlum's intriguing historical touch of "The Da Vinci Code" and the nonstop suspense of Michael Crichton.
  - 2. **Five People You Meet in Heaven, Mitch Albom, \$19.95.** From the author of the New York Times bestseller "The Five Love Languages," Albom's "Heaven" is an answer to the question: What happens to the souls of the loved ones who die? It's an answer.
  - 3. **Wonder Room, P.D. James, \$22.95.** Commander Adam Dalgliesh, a formidable and fascinating detective, returns to find himself in a terrifying story of passion, mystery — and in love.
  - 4. **Unhushable, Jhumra Lahiri, \$22.95.** Building on her signature style of the immigrant experience, Lahiri brings to the fore a poignant first novel that explores the power of emotion and the role of women in her debut story.
  - 5. **Johnson Tobias Wolff, \$22.** The author's genre-defining memoir "The Way It Was" is The Barrack's first novel. It's a story of a young boy at New England boarding school, obsessed with visiting au-pair.
  - 6. **Neil Morrison, \$23.95.** From the author of the acclaimed Nobel Prize-winning novel "The Englishman's Boy," Morrison's richly conceived novel illuminates the full spectrum of human experience. More than the wealthy of the famous Cossey Hotel and the women for father, husband, and even lives long after his death.
  - 7. **Disceps, Clive Cussler, \$22.95.** An addictive work from Cussler, this one of the most popular adventure fiction is his most dangerous foe
- with help from a very unexpected source
- 8. **The Big Bad Wolf, James Patterson, \$27.95.** Best-selling author James Patterson's infamous Alex Cross makes his debut with the FBI in this action-packed roller coaster of a thriller.
  - 9. **Pompeii, Robert Harris, \$24.95.** "Pompeii" recreates in spellbinding detail one of the most famous natural disasters of all time. And by focusing on the characters of an engineer and a scientist, it offers an, entirely original perspective on the Roman world.
  - 10. **Quicksilver, Neal Stephenson, \$27.95.** In this wonderfully inventive follow-up to his bestseller "Cryptonomicon," Stephenson brings to life a cast of unforgettable characters in a time of breathtaking genius and discovery, men and women whose exploits defined an age known as the Baroque.
- Hardcover Non-Fiction**
- 1. **Dude, Where's My Country? Michael Moore, \$24.95.** Fresh on the heels of his runaway best-selling "Stupid White Men," Moore returns with a bold and hilarious act of sedition as he seeks to overthrow the "Thief in Chief" and effect the kind of grass-roots change that will shake the country.
  - 2. **Lies & the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, Al Franken, \$24.95.** Once again, the author of "Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations" trains his subversive wit directly on the contemporary political scene, leaving the powers-that-be in tatters and his audience in hysterics.
  - 3. **The South Beach Diet, Arthur Agatston, M.D., \$24.95.** Dr. Agatston has developed an all-science, deliciously heart-healthy program that promises immediate results, helping dieters shed up to 30 pounds while radically changing their blood chemistry, reversing diabetes and lowering high cholesterol.
  - 4. **Bushwhacked, Molly Ivins & Lou Dubose, \$24.95.** With the unprecedented challenges to civil liberties presented by the war on terrorism, the failure of the Bush economic policy, and the largely unnoticed crumbling of the quality of American life, the time
- is ripe for Ivins' no-holds-barred look at the first years of the George W. Bush presidency.
- 5. **Living to Tell the Tale, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, \$26.95.** From Nobel Laureate writer Marquez comes a magnificent piece of writing that finds him telling the story of his life from his birth in 1927 through his career as a writer.
  - 6. **The Great Unraveling, Paul Krugman, \$25.95.** In this long-awaited work containing economist Krugman's most influential columns along with new commentary, he chronicles how the boom economy unraveled: how exuberance gave way to pessimism, how the age of corporate heroes gave way to corporate scandals, and how fiscal responsibility collapsed.
  - 7. **Hegemony or Survival, Noam Chomsky, \$22.** The United States is in the process of staking out not just the globe but the heavens as a militarized sphere of influence. Chomsky investigates how it came to this moment, what kind of peril it presents, and why rulers are willing to jeopardize the future of the species.
  - 8. **Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea, Thomas Cahill, \$27.50.** In the fourth volume of the acclaimed Hinges of History series, the author of "How the Irish Saved Civilization" brings his characteristic wit and style to a fascinating tour of ancient Greece.
  - 9. **The Creative Habit, Twyla Tharp, \$25.** Tharp's time-tested techniques will help everybody reach their greatest creative potential, in a clear, easy-to-follow program that lifts the veil off the creative process and opens the door to the artist in everyone.
  - 10. **Under the Banner of Heaven, Jon Krakauer, \$26.** Krakauer shifts his focus from extremes of physical adventure to extremes of religious belief within our own borders. At the core of his book is an appalling double murder committed by two Mormon Fundamentalists brothers, Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims.
- Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

*Come Home to Albany For the Holidays*

**Celebrate an old-fashioned Holiday on Main Street, U.S.A. Solano and San Pablo Avenues in Albany**

featuring...

- \* Live music
- \* Free 2-hr. parking, Solano and San Pablo Avenues
- \* Santa will visit every weekend!
- \* Gift wrapping stations serving hot cocoa and cider
- \* San Francisco Cable Car Shuttle Dec. 24
- \* Inflatable Jump House every weekend

Support small businesses and our schools in Albany -- where the sun shines at just the right angle, the merchants are happy to see you, and everyone will give you the time of day...

For more information, contact:

**THE ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

(510) 525-1771

[www.albanychamber.org](http://www.albanychamber.org)

HILLS NEWSPAPERS  
CARTAGE/DELIVERY/STATION

ALBANY  
Albany Bowl

ALBANY  
ESP  
Interactive solutions

ALBANY  
AC

ALBANY  
WASTE MANAGEMENT



# Arts & Leisure

Friday, December 12, 2003



**BILL MANN**  
Multimedia Notes

## Media tyrants must be fought

**B**ILL MOYERS is no alarmist, and his PBS show, "NOW With Bill Moyers" (it airs Fridays at 9 on KQED) is well-respected for its thoughtfulness and accuracy. Moyers says of media conglomeration — TV, radio and print — "It's the biggest story of all, the one that determines what other stories get told." Moyers adds, "Media conglomeration can take the oxygen out of democracy."

The respected American Journalism Review, in a recent study, found that for the first five months this year, leading up to the FCC's June 2 vote to relax media ownership rules, virtually no coverage of this issue aired on ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC and CNN, all beneficiaries of the proposed rules change. This is why members of both parties (ranging from Ted Kennedy to Trent Lott) oppose the FCC changes. After all, whoever controls the media controls our national agenda.

It's also true locally. Case in point:

In a recent PBS essay (as well as one in "The Nation") Moyers singles out Dean Singleton — whose MediaNews Group owns several Bay Area papers — as one of the prime examples of abuse of conglomerated power.

Moyers says former pitcher Jim Bouton, whose classic "Ball Four" was just named one of 100 "Books of the Century" by the New York Public Library, recently had an unpleasant Singleton experience. This all took place in Bouton's hometown of Pittsfield, Mass., where Singleton happens to own the only daily. Bouton had thought the paper was locally owned. Wrong.

Moyers reports that Singleton's paper wanted to use \$18.5 million of taxpayer money to build a new baseball stadium on property the paper owned. "Turns out the property is polluted, even though the newspaper didn't bother to disclose that fact," says Moyers in disgust. When Bouton and a partner went to the local paper with a plan to renovate the existing stadium — at no taxpayer cost — Singleton's local publisher-puppet told them to check with Dean in Denver: it was out of his hands. Singleton, says Moyers, couldn't be bothered to return Bouton's calls.

By the way, the public had voted down this new-stadium proposal four times. Bouton wrote a book about the sorry affair. But at the last minute, he was told by his publisher that "Foul Ball" wouldn't be printed. Moyers said Bouton's publisher got a call from one of Singleton's partners in the stadium scheme: G.E.

Moyers says Bouton was offered half his advance to remain silent about the whole affair; typically, he refused. He has just self-published "Foul Ball." Moyers recommends you buy the book at [www.jimbouton.com/foulball.html](http://www.jimbouton.com/foulball.html).

It might make the perfect Christmas gift for anyone who subscribes to any of Singleton's dreary papers. Moyers says the Singleton stadium affair is further proof that "every monopoly is a tyranny lying in wait."

By the way, Moyers says two-thirds of the newspaper markets in this country are monopolies. Fortunately for us, that's not the case here in the Bay Area.

**AWESOME:** There's no better word for HBO's six-hour, two-play miniseries, "Angels in America." This may just be the best thing HBO's ever done. The New York Times calls Tony Kushner's teleplay the best adaptation of a stage play to television in 50 years. Add possibly the best two actors working today, Al Pacino and Meryl Streep, and brilliant director Mike Nichols, and it's little wonder "Angels" is such a stunning achievement. Part 2, "Perestroika," will air Sunday at 8 on HBO. Don't miss it. HBO deserves credit for finally realizing television's long-dormant potential as a powerful medium of artistic expression.

Reach Bill Mann at [News-mann@sonic.net](mailto:News-mann@sonic.net).



VANESSA JACKSON plays the Snow Queen, while Kelly Kaufman, left, Crystal Leslie and Jasmine McNeal play the Snow Pages.

## Glenview ballet short, sweet

■ Special effects, lavish costumes, classical dance evoke the 'Night Before Christmas' — in 45 minutes

By Lisa Coffey Mahoney

STAFF WRITER

Families seeking a special holiday experience should check out the Glenview Performing Arts Center's production of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," which opens tonight.

Enchanting special effects — including a magical growing Christmas tree with over 10,000 lights and an indoor snowfall — stunning costumes, lovely choreography and a lush musical score make "Twas the Night Before Christmas" a special ballet, according to artistic director Theodore Dawson.

"It evokes memories of Christmas long ago, when beauty, abundance and childhood wonderment were the rule and not the exception," he said.

The production was conceived nearly 30 years ago, when director/choreographer J.T. Herst decided there was a need for a Christmas-themed ballet geared for youngsters.

"I always took my son to see

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** "Twas the Night Before Christmas" ballet

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 and 19;

2, 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20; and

2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21

**WHERE:** Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenfield Ave., Oakland

**COST:** \$17

**CONTACT:** Call 510 531-0511 for details, or to buy tickets.

"The Nutcracker" when he was young, and bought expensive seats in the grand tier," Herst said.

Much to Herst's dismay, her son seemed more interested in the candy at the snack bar than the ballet on the stage.

Ballet is near and dear to Herst's heart: she danced with ballet companies in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paris and has taught dance for many years. She holds the Royal Academy of Dancing Advanced Teacher's Certificate from England.

Herst said that when she asked her son why he wouldn't sit still for the performance, he replied, "Frankly, mother, it's boring."

So, in 1974, Herst created an alternative to "The Nutcracker"



**MOTHER MOUSE**, played by Vanessa Jackson, and **Father Mouse**, played by Terry Lee, are characters in "Twas the Night Before Christmas" being staged at the Glenview Performing Arts Center in Oakland Dec. 12-21.

— "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Geared for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, the 45-minute ballet played in several Bay Area venues — San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts Theater, the Berkeley Community Theater and Stanford's Memorial Hall. And the dance company was in the target audience's peer group.

"It was basically children in

the Bay Area who had been trained in the Royal Academy of Dancing method," Herst said.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas" played for 11 consecutive years to an annual audience of more than 6,000 children and their families. Unfortunately, the show became too expensive to produce and closed, Dawson said.

See **BALLET**, Page C11

## Jazz presented with a Venezuelan flavor

By Brian Kluepfel

CORRESPONDENT

Venezuela's location at the northern tip of South America has led to varied influences in its culture and music: Caribbean, African, European and Andean. This rich musical backdrop in turn influenced Caracas-born singer-songwriter Maria Márquez when she was a child.

Later, on visits to the United States and Europe with her family, she was enchanted by the compositions of such artists as Paul Simon, the Beatles, Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder. And outside the pop realm, she began to cultivate her taste for jazz, enchanted by the music of Nina Simone, Miles Davis, and later, Weather Report.

Those influences, plus the effects of a longtime interest in jazz and formal musical training will be on display Saturday when Márquez plays La Peña, featuring selections from her third CD, "Princesa de la Naturaleza (Nature's Princess)."

"My music is Latin music, recorded mostly in Spanish," said Márquez, who lives in Napa. She also sings tunes in English and Portuguese. "But it has a very strong improvisational side, it's not 'Latin jazz' in the sense of Tito Puente, it's more like World Music." Among the instruments she uses to enrich her compositions are accordions, steel drums and a variety of Afro-Venezuelan percussion.

She is quick to credit what she calls a "super band" in realizing her musical vision. Local players such as Jonathan Alford (keyboards), Peter Barshay (acoustic bass) and Tom Miller (steel drums) will be backing her up on Saturday. She also gave a special nod to seven-string guitarist Robin Lewis, who helped her with string arrangements. "Without his help, it would be very



CONTRIBUTED

**SINGER-SONGWRITER** Maria Márquez says of her music, "It has a very strong improvisational side, it's not 'Latin jazz' in the sense of Tito Puente, it's more like World Music."

difficult," she said.

It will be a complex and multilayered performance on Saturday, including for the first time on La Peña's stage a Latin string quartet featuring Irene Sazer on violin and Gianna Abondolo on cello. Afro-percussionists

### IF YOU GO

**WHEN:** Saturday, Dec. 13

**WHAT:** "The Classical Side of Princesa de la Naturaleza," Venezuelan jazz featuring vocalist Maria Márquez

**WHERE:** La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

**TICKETS:** 510-849-2568

The Wataka Ensemble will make it an even 10 musicians on the stage.

"It's a lot to organize," Márquez admits.

Márquez is quick to credit an academic study of music in addition to a more personal approach in forming her musical persona. She is a graduate of Boston's Berklee School of Music.

"That really taught me to listen to music, especially jazz horn players," she said. As a vocalist, she gives kudos to the late Judy Miller, the Oakland vocal coach who also worked with Janis Joplin and Barbra Streisand.

"Judy's method was different than classical bel canto approach," said Márquez. "She was an extra special person and a wonderful teacher."

From the *cuatro*, the four-stringed national instrument of her native land, to the Fender Rhodes keyboard, the Latina diva crosses musical cultures and intermingles them with ease.

"I'm a city person, and my music is very urban," said Márquez. "But I try to express in my own way a Venezuelan flavor ... that richness I was very fortunate to have."

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at [bkluepfel@hotmail.com](mailto:bkluepfel@hotmail.com).

## Uncle Ted brings back puppet

**R**EMEMBER TEDDY around town brought his friends to Contra Costa Centre? What has since then? The whole year's worth of it. And now what? He's back at Contra Costa Centre for a quick visit today with "Uncle Ted's Christmas Fables."

The Richard Bay Theatre production is already sold out for today, and repeats on Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10 with discounts for seniors and students. Tickets are available at Pomona Ave. corner Lane, El Cerrito Cal 94532 to make reservations.

Last season, the magic of puppets brought a new life to the United States from Italy.

Now back in the Uncle Ted's puppet tell. One from Italy comes "ufana." There's more course, Just A Dog's return appearance.

**A.C.T. CAROL** For those who love the magic of puppets, the Christmas season begins as I'm concerned, appear in "Christmas Carol." Dec. 3 at the Amador Theatre (ACT) Geary, San Francisco.

Seconding the Costa College's version two days later for a weekend run through Dec.

Since the story tells of some not-so-well-known as A.C.T. continues its year of performing (Thanks, Scott Watson of public relations.)

When this "Carol" Dec. 26 after a Tuesday run (no show on Christmas Day, but an extra performance on Monday, Dec. 27) have been seen in years by about 832 people.

The longest commercial cast member: New James Donovan (Finn Tim) of Antioch (800 round trip). With all and performances, to about 3,028 million to the theater.

For the snowy effects of dry ice and each performance — per year; 52 tons of season's show ends to fill more than 40 commercial jets.

Each performance costumes, 91 pairs of wigs and three hair combinations.

And — to date — has also used seven Number of "bah, humbug" uncounted.

Ticket prices, and performance dates. Call 415-749-2228 for more.

**FUNNY OLD** stage Theatre of the Sun opens "The Sun" 8 tonight at the Dunes Means Memorial Junior School House Cultural 2050 Oak Park Blvd.

Neil Simon's comedy biz comedy is about a cranky old vaudeville had a falling out and are now in a hatchet for a cab back. Helen Means After tonight, the Thursday-Saturday 10. Curtain times names on various dates. Tickets are \$10 for seniors on Thursday-Saturday Eve. Call 925-945-1111.

Reach Jack County Time Drive, Richmond mail to [jfucers@comcast.net](mailto:jfucers@comcast.net) fax to 510-263-2774.



# Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Friday supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, December 12, 2003

Section D

## Third-row seats: Is it safe back there?

BY FARA WARNER

For many parents, a third row of seats has become a must-have feature on vehicles ranging from SUVs to minivans. Sport wagons like the Dodge Stratus and Cadillac SRX have even as manufacturers add third rows to a broader range of vehicles. Little is known about how the passengers seated there, usually children, will fare in accidents.

There are also few safety guidelines for consumers to follow when shopping for vehicles with a third row. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration does conduct rear-crash tests with dummies to simulate the effects on rear seat occupants, said an agency spokesman, Tim Hurd, and it has immediate plans to do so.

The agency already ranks vehicles with one to five stars for front-impact safety and for rollover resistance. It said anyone sits back there, rear crashes tend to be at low risk," he said. The Insurance Institute Highway Safety, a group funded by the insurance industry, only conduct crash tests for how safety.

As the number of vehicles with third rows grows, the probability of injuries being injured is likely to rise, too, just as the incidence of SUV rollovers grew as

See SAFETY, Page D2



**THE AMANTI**, Kia's top-of-the-line luxury sedan, has room for five passengers, four sets of golf clubs in the trunk and comes with all the features expected on an upscale car. Yet, its price is much less. Plus, Kia offers a 100,000-mile, 10-year warranty.

## 2004 Kia Amanti is a bargain at any price

MOTOR MATTERS

Kia has a simple way of doing business. It built a vehicle containing numerous desirable features other manufacturers offer, but sells its cars for a lot less money.

As a result, in 10 short years, this Korean manufacturer has grown to more than 600 dealerships and is now offering a complete product line.

What's more, they back up their products with a 100,000-mile, 10-year warranty.

The latest vehicle is the all-new 2004 Amanti, Kia's flagship. This is

a top-of-the-line full-size five-passenger sedan.

However, they prefer to not label it "full-size" as the marketing people consider that tag line too stodgy for younger buyers. They suggested I just call it a "big" car.

The Amanti contains many features found on the upscale full-size luxury sedans, yet it is priced in the mid-\$25,000. Load up with all the options and it is still less than \$30,000.

My test-drive began with skepticism. Here's a big car with a very bold appearance containing the fit

**TOM KEANE**

Keane on Wheels

and-finish expected only in cars in the \$50,000 range.

For example, many luxury cars have passenger assist handles that snap back into place when released. The Amanti's assist handles close with cushioned silence.

The trunk, that holds four golf bags, can be secured with a button inside the glove compartment

when valet parking, and the glove compartment locked with a separate key.

The seats of the Amanti are covered with top-of-the-line quality leather and can be programmed into set positions using eight-way power seat adjusters mounted on the door, similar to the type found on Mercedes-Benz.

This car has a three-dimensional instrument panel with an electronically controlled five-speed automatic transmission. Burl walnut trim complements the rich interior in which the use of high-grade materials is

obvious.

"What's the catch," I wondered "How can Kia offer so much for so little?"

The Amanti even has an Infinity 225-watt audio sound system with a six-disc in-dash CD player that even includes a sub-woofer.

Additional sound system controls are neatly embedded on one spoke on the steering wheel, with cruise controls on the opposite spoke.

Such features as power win-

See KEANE, Page D2

**AutoFinder**  
cars.com  
CONTRA COSTA TIMES  
www.CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

## AutoFinder

cars.com

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

www.CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

To see hundreds more pre-owned vehicles pick up a free copy of AutoFinder at these locations

• Safeway • 7-Eleven • Blockbuster Video • Albertson's • K-Mart • & look for the Bright Red Street Racks!

Dealers: Advertise in AutoFinder & highlight your vehicles here for FREE! For information, call 925-945-4799

BMW Concord • 1-866-999-3325

1967 Market Street, Concord



\$22,985

1999 BMW 3 Series M3 Convertible



\$30,888

2001 BMW 7 Series 740i Sedan



\$5,991

2000 Ford Excursion F22 Coupe



\$6,493

1999 Nissan Altima GXI Sedan



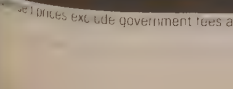
\$6,788

2003 Hyundai Accent GL Sedan



\$6,988

1996 Saturn SC Coupe



\$6,999

2001 Saturn I1 Sedan

Concord Nissan • 866-813-2616

1290 Concord Ave, Concord



\$10,400

2002 Ford Focus SE Hatchback



\$11,800

2003 Dodge Neon SE Sedan



\$36,800

2003 Nissan 350Z Coupe



\$8,990

1998 Ford Explorer XLT



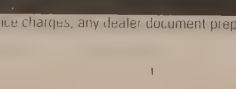
\$2,991

1998 Chrysler Town & Country LXi



\$6,591

1999 Hyundai Elantra GL Wagon



\$8,991

1996 Ford Explorer XLT

Dublin Honda • 888-884-8444

7099 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin



\$8,850

2001 Porsche Boxster Convertible



\$16,930

2001 BMW 3 Series 323i



\$5,844

1998 Nissan Altima GXI Sedan



\$16,930

2001 Dodge Intrepid SE Sedan



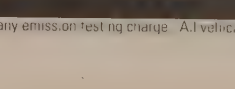
\$20,855

2002 Ford Excursion Sport Utility



\$14,488

2002 Honda Odyssey EX Wagon



\$15,488

2000 BMW 3 Series 323i

1967 Market Street, Concord

1967 Market Street, Concord



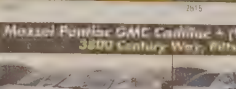
\$6,493

1999 Nissan Altima GXI Sedan



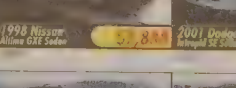
\$6,788

2003 Hyundai Accent GL Sedan



\$6,988

1996 Saturn SC Coupe



\$6,999

2001 Saturn I1 Sedan



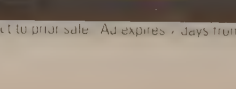
\$6,591

1999 Hyundai Elantra GL Wagon



\$8,991

1996 Ford Explorer XLT



\$15,488

2000 BMW 3 Series 323i

1967 Market Street, Concord

1967 Market Street, Concord



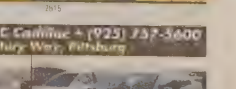
\$6,493

1999 Nissan Altima GXI Sedan



\$6,788

2003 Hyundai Accent GL Sedan



\$6,988

1996 Saturn SC Coupe



\$6,999

2001 Saturn I1 Sedan



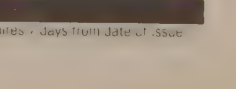
\$6,591

1999 Hyundai Elantra GL Wagon



\$8,991

1996 Ford Explorer XLT



\$15,488

2000 BMW 3 Series 323i

All prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 7 days from date of issue.



## '67 Cadillac DeVille: Enjoyable ride

MOTOR MATTERS

Like many New Englanders, Paul Bozzini prefers spending as much of the winter as possible in Florida.

While vacationing in the Sunshine State during the mid-1980s, Bozzini saw an antique Cadillac convertible advertised for sale. By the time he found the address the car was sold.

Back home in Milford, Mass., it wasn't until October 1988 that he learned of another old Cadillac that was for sale by the original owner. "I quickly arranged to view the vehicle which was located in Waterbury, Conn.," Bozzini says.

With his son, Christopher, he drove to Connecticut to inspect the 1967 Cadillac DeVille convertible with 103,000 miles on the odometer. After looking over the then 21-year-old car, Bozzini found it to be in good condition. Negotiations followed and soon a very happy Bozzini was behind the steering wheel of his newly acquired Cadillac on the road home to Massachusetts.

In Hartford, Conn., the big 429-cubic-inch V8 engine died. A little tinkering with the four-barrel carburetor and a fresh tank of gasoline got the car running all the way home where the carburetor was completely rebuilt. Bozzini now reports that his Cadillac delivers about 14 miles per gallon on the highway.

The Cadillac Motor Car Division build sheet dated June 30, 1967 indicates the convertible, one of 18,202 produced in 1967, left the factory with: door guards, AM/FM radio, soft ray glass, power antenna, power steering, power windows and climate control.

**VERN PARKER**  
Classic Classics

The Cadillac had a base price of \$5,608 but, with all the extra cost options, the total price rose to \$6,639.15. Schoobey Cadillac, Inc., of West Palm Beach sold the new car on Aug. 4, 1967, to Edward F. Caffery who kept it 21 years.

For the next seven years Bozzini worked on restoring his Cadillac to like-new condition. During that period it was repainted the original Venetian Blue and both bumpers were removed and shipped off for replating.

A new perforated Grecian White leather interior by Jenkins, an exact duplicate of the original, was installed.

The worn carpet was replaced and a new tan convertible top was installed. Bozzini plans to have the new top out of sight most of the time under a white boot that matches the upholstery.

The most extensive repair the car underwent was replacing the rusted-out floor of the trunk. Bozzini found a replacement floor pan which was welded in place after all the cancerous metal was cut away.

Correct hoses, clamps and belts now are in place under the enormous engine hood. The car stretches 18.6-feet from the stacked headlights to the rear fenders, and it rolls on a 129.5-inch wheelbase.

With the restoration process completed, in July 1995 Bozzini fired up his like-new then 28-year-old car, and with 340 horsepower at his command, drove to the Cadillac



MOTOR MATTERS

**PRESENT OWNER** is only the second for this 1967 Cadillac DeVille and has completely restored the car to like-new condition.

lac LaSalle Club Grand National meet in Albany, N.Y. There it received first place in its class.

Along with other club members in their Cadillacs, he took his convertible to a car event on the eastern end of Long Island. The ferry from Connecticut to Montauk Point on Long Island carried fewer cars than normal that day because of all the extra-long Cadillacs on board.

The engine runs strong and has never been rebuilt, according to Bozzini. It still has no difficulty in propelling the handsome blue 4,479-pound Cadillac.

"I very much enjoy driving this beautiful Cadillac," Bozzini comments. He is planning to have his car transported to Florida for his use in St. Petersburg during his stay there this winter.

"I've had a lot of fun with that car," Bozzini observes, "and I plan to have more."

For your car to become the subject of this column, send a good quality photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abotsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181.

## Keane

FROM PAGE D1

dows and door locks are standard and include a "fail-safe" system that prevents the doors from being locked if the keys are left in the ignition. As for one-touch down windows, this car has one-touch up-and-down on all four windows plus an anti-pinch system. That's a rarity.

I was sure to find some faults during my test-drive. Knowing it only has a 200-horsepower engine, I suspected it would be underpowered. Wrong!

The 3.5-liter 24-valve V6 engine has a broad 220-pounds-foot torque curve and responded reasonably well when I would find a place to pass another vehicle on two-lane roads. Nevertheless a stronger engine is in the works.

What's even more surprising is the overall interior noise level. This is a very quiet, smooth-riding sedan.

On some rural roads, I had the opportunity to push this car hard through some turns and it held the road quite well. There is nothing lacking in its stability.

Amanti's base price is \$540 for shipping and handling. Three option packages are available for \$550. Traction control and electronic stability control are available for \$500. Add all the options and you have a genuine bargain. There's nothing about its workmanship or construction price is cheap.

## 2004 KIA AMANTI

Type: 4-door FWD Full-size sedan  
Suggested Retail Price as Tested  
Engine

Horsepower: 200  
Torque: 200  
Transmission: 5-speed automatic  
Wheelbase: 108.3  
Curb Weight: 3,200  
Fuel Capacity: 18.5  
Mileage: 24

## SAAB SUBARU

4133 Broadway Auto Row, OAKLAND  
800-335-7222

OAKLAND'S ONLY SAAB/SUBARU DEALER

**SAAB**  
0% APR  
on approved credit up to 48 months on '04 Selected Models. \$14.67 per \$1000 borrowed. \*APR cannot be combined with discounts or special offers.

**2004 9.3 LINEAR**  
Power Windows, Power Door Locks & Much More!  
**\$291 per mo.** + tax  
1 at this price #1016726

36 month closed end lease. \$291 per mo. + tax. Total due at lease inception \$1994 cash or trade in equity. Includes \$0 refundable security deposit. \*10,000 miles per year. \$2.20 per mile thereafter.

**2004 9-3 Convertibles ARE HERE!**

**SAAB SUBARU**  
4133 BROADWAY AUTO ROW, OAKLAND  
800-335-7222  
OAKLAND'S ONLY SAAB/SUBARU DEALER

All prices plus government fees & taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, emission testing charge or title fee. Ad expires close of business Sunday, 12/14/03. Not valid for cash or trade-in. \*Not all will qualify. APR's subject to credit approval. \*\*Owner liability applies to previous and current Saab owners, must provide registration on proof of sale.

**TOYOTATHON**  
NORTH BAY'S FASTEST GROWING TOYOTA DEALER

**TOYOTA OF BERKELEY**  
Nobody BEATS Berkeley!

**FINANCING!**  
ON 2003 HIGHLANDER, TUNDRA, 4RUNNER, 2004 COROLLA, MATRIX & CAMRY!  
AVAILABLE ON CREDIT APPROVAL FOR 36 mos.  
1.9%\* 2.9%\* APR

**THIS WEEKEND ONLY**  
\$750 ON '04 CAMRY & TACOMAS  
\$1000 ON '03 HIGHLANDER, 4RUNNER & TUNDRA  
\$2000 ON ALL REMAINING '03 TUNDRA

**NEW '04 Tacomas**  
\$12,488 OR 0% APR  
1 AT THIS PRICE #33624

**NEW '03 Access Cab V-8 Tundras**  
\$5,100 OFF MSRP OR 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS!  
Includes \$2000 Factory Sales. \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed. 3 Left: 4x4 4x2 4x4

**Toyota Truck Center! Over 20 Trucks to Choose From**

**NEW '04 Corollas**  
\$13,488 OR 0% APR  
2 AT THIS PRICE #05228, 268574

**NEW '04 Camrys**  
\$16,988 OR 0% APR  
2 AT THIS PRICE #82707, 268684

**PRE-OWNED USED VEHICLES & CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**  
OVER 50 IN STOCK!

**01' TOYOTA PRIUS**  
STARTING AT \$17,988  
4 TO CHOOSE FROM 1 AT THIS PRICE #003744

**'93 CAMRY LE**  
\$5,988

**'01 ECHO**  
\$9,988

**'01 COROLLA LE**  
\$12,988

**'98 PRE-RUNNER XCA**  
\$13,988

**'01 HIGHLANDER LMTD**  
SAVE!!!

**'00 4RUNNER**  
\$16,988

**TOYOTA OF BERKELEY**  
2400 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley  
CALL NOW! 510-845-2530

## Safety

FROM PAGE D1

those vehicles became more common.

Without government oversight, keeping the third row safe is up to each automaker, an approach that has resulted in widely varying safety measures. Vehicles that until recently didn't come with third rows, like mid-size sport utilities, have fewer safety features for the third row than newer vehicles designed to include those seats.

Safety experts say the most effective air bags are those that provide head protection, like side-curtain bags or sausage-shape bags that inflate out of the roof.

The optional third row in the latest version of the Ford Explorer is not covered by the vehicle's "safety canopy" air bag, which inflates to protect pas-

sengers during rollovers, said Jim Boland, the advanced safety manager at Ford.

The seat does come with three-point belts, but they don't have pretensioners that pull the belts tight in a crash; the Explorer's first-row belts do have pretensioners. For 2004, the Dodge Durango, which has long offered a third-row seat, adds a side air curtain bag that covers the third row.

The Chrysler Pacifica wagon also has such a bag. "We need to learn more about the third row," said Stephan J. Speth, director of safety for Chrysler. "We don't know as much as we should."

Volvo, which bases many of its safety features on a database of 25,000 real crashes, has packed its new utility wagon, the XC90, with third-row safety features including a curtain bag.

The XC90 has been designed so the forward-facing

third row sits a foot away from the back window and on top of the rear axle. The axle is made of steel, not aluminum, providing better protection to occupants in a rear side-collision.

"Even at 5 miles per hour, a child could be thrown out the back window," said a Volvo spokesman, Dan Johnston.

"We've taken the position that if we offer third rows then we have to design them for safety."

Safety experts agree that

children are safest in the second row of any vehicle. But wherever anyone sits, the head restraint should be properly adjusted, said David Champion, auto testing director at Consumers Union, who added that the top of the restraints should be even with the top of the head.

"Too often, people push them all the way down for visibility and forget to adjust them," he said.

**SAVE A LOT OF JINGLE! Bay Area's #1 Hyundai Dealer!**

**DRIVE HOME A NEW SLEIGH!**  
**\$5888 OR \$99/MO**

**CREDIT PROBLEMS? RELAX! CALL 800-510-8577**  
**PURCHASE, NOT A LEASE!**

\*'03 Accent with \$1329.10 down payment financed @ 4.99% for 60 months. Requires above average credit

**AMERICA'S BEST WARRANTY!**  
**THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE**  
10 Yr. 100,000 MI. Powertrain Protection  
5 Yr. 60,000 MI. Bumper-to-Bumper Coverage  
5 Yr. 60,000 MI. Roadside Assistance

**2003 ACCENT 33 MPG! Best Warranty!**  
\$10,589 MSRP  
-\$1101 Doten Discount  
\$9588 SALE PRICE  
-\$1500 Cash Back  
-\$2200 Doten Loyalty Discount  
**\$5888**

**NET COST! 1 AT THIS PRICE #255507** \*\*\*Must be currently registered Doten Hyundai owner. Price after Cash Back & Loyalty Discount.

**2003 ELANTRA** AC, AM/FM/Cass. Cruise, Power Windows/Locks, Alarm, Keyless Remote!  
\$14,002 MSRP  
-\$2214 Doten Loyalty Discount\*\*  
\$11,788 SALE PRICE  
-\$1500 Cash Back  
-\$500 Valued Customer Coupon\*\*\*  
**\$9788**

**NET COST! 1 AT THIS PRICE #625269** \*\*\*Must be currently registered Doten Hyundai owner. Price after Cash Back & Loyalty Discount.

**2003 SONATA** Keyless Remote, Alarm, AM/FM/CD, Cruise, Power Windows/Locks/Heated Mirrors!  
\$16,125 MSRP  
-\$1337 Doten Discount  
\$14,788 SALE PRICE  
-\$1000 Cash Back  
-\$1000 Valued Customer Coupon\*\*\*  
**\$12,788**

**NET COST! 1 AT THIS PRICE #868097** \*\*\*Must be currently registered Hyundai owner. Price after Cash Back & Discount.

**2004 SANTA FE!** AC, Alloys, AM/FM/CD, Power Windows/Locks/Heated Mirror  
\$18,934 MSRP  
-\$1000 Doten Discount  
\$17,934 SALE PRICE  
-\$1000 Cash Back  
-\$1157 Doten Loyalty Discount\*\*  
-\$1000 Valued Customer Coupon\*\*\*  
**\$14,777**

**NET COST! 1 AT THIS PRICE #641689** \*\*\*Must be currently registered Doten Hyundai owner. Price after Cash Back, Coupon and Loyalty Discount.

**510.222.8882**

\*See dealer for details. 11 Selected vehicles with 735 Credit Score & approval thru Hyundai Motor Finance Corp. Prices plus government fees & taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, & any emission testing charge. Vehicles subject to prior sale. Offer ends Dec. 15, 2003

**DOTEN**  
HILLTOP RICHMOND  
HYUNDAI

3285 Auto Plaza Rd. Richmond

Credit Hotline: 800.510.8577 • www.dotenauto.com • Open 7 Days

**GOOD CHEVROLET**  
1610 Park Street Alameda, CA 94501  
SALES 510-522-0222  
SERVICE 510-522-9221  
**& BODY SHOP**  
Service Hours  
MON - FRI 7:30 am - 6:00 pm  
Parts Hours  
MON - FRI 9 am - 5:30 pm  
Body Shop Hours  
MON - FRI 7:30 am - 6:00 pm  
SAT 9 am - 12 pm  
All estimates welcome.

**WE WILL MATCH ANY LOCAL GM DEALER'S ADVERTISED PRICES ON IN-STOCK ITEMS. YOU SAY YOU NEED A NEW ENGINE? GM GOODWRENCH IS WHAT YOU NEED**  
350 1971-85 4-Bolt Main #10087353 SALE! \$1,285.00  
350 1987-95 Truck/F-150 #105887583 \$1,750.00  
V6 2.8L Eng for S-10 & Camaro #1031858 \$1,776.00

**YOU SAY YOU WANT MORE POWER? MORE THAN JUST POWER.**

**Good Chevrolet Collision Center**  
• Free estimates  
• We work with most major insurance companies  
• Factory/ICAR Trained Technicians utilizing state-of-the-art Unibody Repair Equipment  
• Expert collision repair  
• Computerized color matching

**AMAZE YOURSELF!**

5 Minute Loan Application  
Big Volume = Powerful Financing

**Ron Says YES .Com**

**What Does This Mean To You?**  
You will have access to the Area's largest used car inventory. Even if you have had less than perfect credit, your next car, truck, van, or SUV can be just an easy application away.

**RonSaysYes.com**  
**1-866-264-0650**



ContraCostaTimes.com







The Largest  
Garage Sale Listings In  
The East Bay.  
REACHING OVER 190,000 HOMES

# Garage Sale Mania!

CALL  
1-800-733-3933

<p><b>Antioch</b></p> <p><b>2365 Silver Creek Circle</b> Dec. 12th Friday 7:30-2pm Christmas decorations, large hanging waterfall, and lots lots more!</p> <p><b>Garage Moving Sale</b> <b>3011 Camby Rd.</b> Fri. 12/12 Sat. 12/13 &amp; Sun. 12/14, 8AM-4PM Xmas Decor, lamps, bedding, misc. hshld. furn., dining set, AND MORE!</p> <p><b>Moving Sale</b> Must sell! Various furniture, living rm. set, futon, end coffee tables, organ, pull-out sofa, elliptical trainer, patio furniture &amp; generator. All good to excel. cond. by Appointment Only. 3064 G St. 925-457-6927.</p> <p><b>Berkeley</b></p> <p><b>CHAIRS CHAIRS CHAIRS</b> Dark oak Windsor bowback oak Windsor chairs, wicker king chairs, other hshld. furniture, maple dining tbl., very tp., baby things. <b>Inside If It's Rainin'</b> <b>2137 Rose St (nr Oxford)</b> Sat 12/13, 9-4</p> <p><b>Moving Sale</b> Home &amp; garden furnish. ing. Lots of kid's stuff. Refrigerator microwave &amp; lots more 10 Avenida Dr. 12-13/Saturday 10-3pm 12-14/Sunday, 9-11pm</p> <p><b>Brentwood</b></p> <p><b>Antiques &amp; Collectibles</b> <b>Estate Sale, Rain or Shine!</b> 921 Stonewood Dr. Saturday 12/13, 8am-2pm Art, tools, books, fishing, figurines, &amp; etc.</p> <p><b>TOOLS, Household items,</b> <b>Christmas ornaments,</b> <b>Gifts &amp; Lots of Misc.</b> 305 Pecan Place (Balfour &amp; Hickory) Fri. 8-3 &amp; Sat. 8-2</p>	<p><b>Concord</b></p> <p><b>OFFICE FURNITURE SALE!</b> Desks, chairs, conf. tables, steel file cabinets, wood shelving! Saturday, 12/13 8am-4pm St. Agnes Church 3966 Chestnut Ave. 925-672-0926</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 8am-1pm</b> 4411 SUGAR MAPLE baby items, tble/couch, Toys, Bellini baby furn, car bed, palm cell, lots misc. THE CROSSINGS</p> <p><b>Danville</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE/DIVORCE SALE</b> <b>SAT-SUN DEC 13-14, 9-3</b> <b>503 Conejo Ct.</b> Beaut. items - paintings, armchairs, china hutch, tble, kit. items, beaut. new baby items, jewelry, clothes, gym, &amp; more!</p> <p><b>Moving Sale!</b> <b>SAT, ONLY 12/13, 7-3</b> Highbridge Ct., (El Cerro West to right on Adobe Dr. to 2nd right on Highbridge Ln. to right on Highbridge Ct.) Furn., clothes, appliances, software.</p> <p><b>MULTI FAMILY SALE</b> Sunday 12/14, 8am-1pm 20 Footnill Ct. Woodranch Bdrm furn, books, coffee tble, end tble, couches, hshld items, sporting goods, toys, sofa sleeper, Xmas decor., lots of misc.</p> <p><b>Discovery Bay</b></p> <p><b>HUGE MOVING SALE</b> Friday &amp; Saturday Dec. 12th &amp; 13th 8am to 2pm. 4470 Driftwood Court. Top quality everything, household, collectibles, clothes and more. Rain or shine</p> <p>Place A Classified Ad Anytime Go To ContraCostaTimes.com</p>	<p><b>El Cerrito</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE SALE 12/12 Fri 8-2</b> <b>12/13 Sat. 9-2 12/14 Sun 10-7 5334 Rosalind Ave.</b> Victorian Chandeliers, light fixtures, Kerosene lamps, fire boxes, furn, 1897 Cramer piano, roll top desk, vintage brick-raft floor, 2 room of antiques, collectible &amp; more tools. Antique anvil, machinist tools, welding equipment, tap &amp; die set, reloading equipment, electric grinders &amp; buffers, Drill press, vices, vintage gardening tools and more. Gun Enthusiast's equipment.</p> <p><b>El Sobrante</b></p> <p><b>* RAIN OR SHINE *</b> Multi-family extravaganza! Unique objectal Something for everyone on your gift list! Sun 12/14 11am-sundown 6020 Rose Arbor Ave., nr. Wildcat/Sikh temple</p> <p><b>"SANFORD &amp; SON SALE"</b> DEC. 13, 12-5 &amp; DEC. 14, 9-5 499 pebble dr. 243-1379 INSIDE A C.U.T. HUSBAND'S EX JUNK COLLECTOR'S WASH/DRYER, ALL MISC HOUSEHOLD &amp; FURN, cloths, lots misc auto &amp; tools, 93 vette as is or part out, tub w/jets No Early Birds OFF HILLTOP DR. <b>MOVING SALE</b></p> <p><b>Lafayette</b></p> <p><b>DEC 12/13 Fri &amp; Sat 8-3pm</b> 1132 BACON WAY Off Stanley &amp; P.H. salesmans samples, household items, porcelain, enamel, cast iron cookware &amp; SS waterless cookware. Folding Chrs.</p> <p><b>MULTI-FAMILY SALE</b> Sat. 12-13, 8am-11a 3336 Moraga Blvd. Bookcase, Books, Hshld. items., Kids clothes, Baby stuff., Lots of misc., X-street: Moraga Blvd &amp; Victoria Ave</p>	<p><b>Lafayette</b></p> <p><b>MULTI-FAMILY SALE</b> Sat. 12-13, 8am-11a 3336 Moraga Blvd. Bookcase, Books, Hshld. items., Kids clothes, Baby stuff., Lots of misc., X-street: Moraga Blvd &amp; Victoria Ave</p> <p><b>* REMODEL SALE *</b> Sat &amp; Sun 13th &amp; 14th 9-4 Furniture, nick nacks, Kitchen, pictures 859 Acialanes Rd. Lafayette</p> <p><b>Livermore</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY DEC. 14th</b> 8am to 3pm 436 Fontonetti Ave. Household items, furn., glassware, picture prints, wall hangings, kid's toys, &amp; much more</p> <p><b>Martinez</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE SALE</b> Sat. 12/13, 8AM-1PM Huge Sale! Avon items 609 Blue Ridge Dr. Thousands of items! Xmas items, collectibles, jewelry, make-up, skin care items, bargain, most items in boxes, various hshld. items, all must go!</p> <p><b>MARTINEZ, Fri &amp; Sat, 7-6</b> House too small! Empied storage, need space. Bed frame, couch, NordiTrack, dishes, TV, toys, clothes, misc. galore. Downtown by court house, follow signs to east end of Ward Street</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> Saturday (12/13), 8-4 p.m. 325 Toulouse Way Formal glass din. tble, desk, couch, maternity clothes, baby &amp; small girl clothes, toys, baby furn., &amp; women's clothing.</p> <p><b>SATURDAY/SUNDAY 9-4</b> 102 Augustine Dr. (Morelio to Macalvey to Augustine Dr.) Couches, chrs., din. tble, w/chrs, lamps, kit. tble, chrs., desks, sofas, beds, computers, books, chests, dresser, beds, kit. items, Xmas decor., crystal, COMPLETE HSHLD.!</p>	<p><b>Martinez</b></p> <p><b>SUN 12/14 10am to 4pm</b> <b>340 Kingston Ave.</b> Furniture, household items, and misc. goods.</p> <p><b>Moraga</b></p> <p><b>HUGE MOVING SALE</b> Tools, collectibles &amp; electronics, furn., furniture, &amp; more! 2130 ASCOT DR. #216 Sat &amp; Sun 8-4 Rain/shine</p> <p><b>Oakland</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE/MOVING SALE</b> 20th Century furn., artfully redone, unfinished pro., charming brick-back, framed art, lamps, garden tools, etc. Sat. 9-2, 959 55th St. (nr. Emeryville)</p> <p><b>INDOOR GARAGE SALE</b> The weather may be bright but our items are delightful. Gifts, cosmetics, jewelry, dishes, books, clothes, shoes, purses, ornaments, videotapes, etc. SUNDAY 10-4pm 2414 RAMPART ST. Off Lincoln</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE! STAY DRY IN THE GARAGE!</b> Saturday Dec 13, 9-4pm 3 Entertrain. ctr., desk, lawn mower, garden &amp; pwr. tools, hshld./home repair/kit. items</p> <p><b>TOTAL ESTATE LIQUIDATION!</b> TOM! Beautiful estate of world travelers: antique furn., organ, dining set, 1950s table set, high-end jewelry, cat, sm. wormen's clothes, rugs, furthr., silver, books, older moped, kids items, more! Unique &amp; lovely items for the holiday shopper! 3409 Monterey Blvd. (off Redwood Rd. Exit 13th or 580 35th Ave.) Fri. 12/12, 10am-1pm Sat. 12/13, 10am-4pm Sun. 12/14 10am-4pm</p>	<p><b>Oakley</b></p> <p><b>LARGE MOVING SALE</b> 152 Meadow Brook Ct. December 13th &amp; 14th Sat. 8 Sun. 9am-5pm Antiques, Christmas decorations, beds, furniture, and much more items. Rain or Shine</p> <p><b>Orinda</b></p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> SAT 12/13 7am to noon 108 Oak Rd. Off Moraga Way Kitchen items, children's toys &amp; videos, &amp; outdoor furniture. Rain or shine!</p> <p><b>Oakland</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE SALE</b> 12/13 Sat. 8am-1pm 55 Saint Thomas Ln. Furn., glassware, lamps, men's clothing, stereo, washer, tv, misc. Morelio to Saint Germain to Saint Thomas</p> <p><b>ESTATE SALE</b> <b>355 JEROME AVE.</b> <b>FRI, SAT, SUN</b> <b>9-3PM</b> Antiques French Normandy Armoire, pair of Demilune hand painted Commode, rug, Capod di Monte figurines, sofas, sets of porcelain dishes, glassware, silver pieces, and much more. <b>ALL MUST GO!</b></p> <p><b>Pittsburg</b></p> <p><b>* MOVING SALE! *</b> Everything must go. Furniture, antiques, paintings, etc. Sat. 12/13, 9-3pm, or call 925-431-0400 200 HERON DR.</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> Misc. items, \$1 to \$75 Cash Only 270 KINGSBERRY PLACE Off Creechview SATURDAY 9am-4pm</p>	<p><b>Pittsburg</b></p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> SATURDAY 8-NOON 871 E. 12th St. @ Columbia Furn., kids stuff, misc. Inside if Rainin'!</p> <p><b>Pleasant Hill</b></p> <p><b>FRI-SAT 12/12-13</b> 301 Maureen Ln Tile saw, slide &amp; chop saw, air compressor, Honda gen., roto hammer, acetylene outfit, Echo blower, antiques, and lots of misc.</p> <p><b>MOVING</b> 30 Years of accumulated goods. Too much to mention Fri-Sat-Sun 12/12-14, 8-4 30 Richie Dr Off Boyd</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> Saturday 12/13 8am-1pm 55 Saint Thomas Ln. Furn., glassware, lamps, men's clothing, stereo, washer, tv, misc. Morelio to Saint Germain to Saint Thomas</p> <p><b>Pleasanton</b></p> <p><b>* GARAGE SALE *</b> <b>3759 Nicholas Ave</b> Saturday 12/13, 8-11am Toys books, games, coats, home items &amp; more!</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> <b>SAT &amp; SUN, 10-3 P.M.</b> <b>304 Christina Ct.</b> 925-600-9322 Furn., lamps, clothes.</p> <p><b>Saturday 12/13, 8-1 pm</b> <b>Saturday 12/13, 8-1 pm</b> <b>6233 Guyson Ct.</b> Miscellaneous items.</p> <p><b>TWO FAMILY SALE</b> 3735 Hawaii Ct. North Friday Dec. 12th 8-12pm Household items, cabinet sewing machine, clothing, kid toys, baby crib with mattress, and much more. Rain or Shine.</p>	<p><b>Richmond</b></p> <p><b>YARD SALE</b> Fri. 12 &amp; Sat. 13, 9-3 3606 &amp; 3618 Andrade Ave. Total Gym exercise set, Xmas items, collector plates, luggage, Beanie Babies, microwave, VCR, Playboy mag. &amp; misc.</p> <p><b>San Leandro</b></p> <p><b>HUGE MOVING SALE!</b> <b>SAT-SUN 12-13-14, 9-5</b> <b>16840 Clinton Avenue</b> 200+ New cond. items at dirt cheap prices. Cmpit. XP computers under \$300, glass tble, TVs, couches, tons more, sale-cozmi.com. Call for pre-sale 510-278-5533</p> <p><b>San Ramon</b></p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> 12/13 Sat. 8am-3pm 24 Starflower Terrace Appliances, Mahogany Bookcase, Books, Computer equip., Furn., Jewelry, Kitchenware, Lamps, Women's clothes, Stereo, Yamaha Receiver, Bose Speakers, Samsonte Luggage, Lots of misc., Exit Crow Cyn from I-680, Turn Right on Porter Drive.</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> 12/13 Sat. 8am-3pm 24 Starflower Terrace Appliances, Mahogany Bookcase, Books, Computer equip., Furn., Jewelry, Kitchenware, Lamps, Women's clothes, Stereo, Yamaha Receiver, Bose Speakers, Samsonte Luggage, Lots of misc., Exit Crow Cyn from I-680, Turn Right on Porter Drive.</p> <p><b>SAT 12/13 8am to 5pm</b> <b>524 Fenway Dr.</b> Clothes, bric-a-brac, artwork, furniture, and lots more</p>	<p><b>Walnut Creek</b></p> <p><b>HUGE SALE, Sat. 8 am-12</b> 2419 Rice Valley Blvd. Appliances, Books, Collectibles, Computer equip., Furn., Hshld. items., Kids clothes, Antiques. No Early Birds.</p> <p><b>* JEWELRY SALE *</b> 20-50% off! Replicas, C.Z.'s, sterling, rings, initials, pears, semi-precious stones, Xmas pints. From \$10-500. Sat. 12/13, 9am-4pm 631 La Vista</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> 1743 CARNEI DR. #9 FRI SAT &amp; SUN 9-4 Kit. sets, bedroom furn., odds and ends 925 932 5774</p> <p><b>MOVING SALE</b> Counter stools, BBQ, tble, pics, toolbox, rocking chair, couch, toys, books, patio table w/chairs, pots/plants, VCR, misc. Saturday (12/13), 10-4 pm 610 Castile Rock Rd.</p> <p><b>SAMPLE/MOVING SALE</b> Everything you need for Christmas. Brand new toys, stationary, frames, &amp; more. Used bedroom furn, desks, armore, Sat 12/13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2417 Casa Way</p> <p><b>SAT 12/13 8am to 5pm</b> <b>524 Fenway Dr.</b> Clothes, bric-a-brac, artwork, furniture, and lots more</p> <p><b>Classified.</b> Your Best Value Delivered to More Homes In the East Bay Than Any Other Daily Newspaper!</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--	---	---	---



## Where is your dream home?

### Real Estate & Home

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]  
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable 'Big One'

Victorian Architecture at its finest

**ROSEMARY MCNALLY**  
The most common residential...  
...about preparing the...  
...Big One...  
...A report...  
...and a home...



## There's no place like home.

## Real Estate & Home, every Friday

### HILLS NEWSPAPERS

THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTCLARION  
THE PIEDMONTER • ALAMEDA JOURNAL











**THE QUICK STOP**  
If you're looking for a car, call Ron Barber at 1-800-700-8515

# HYUNDAI OF FAIRFIELD NOW LOCATED IN THE FAIRFIELD AUTO MALL!

**VOLVO**  
for life  
Volvo Of Fairfield  
2855 Auto Mall Parkway - Fairfield  
1-800-496-0489

## 2004 S40 SDN.



- AUTOMATIC
- MOONROOF
- LEATHER
- PREMIUM PACKAGE
- ALLOY WHEELS

**\$5,200 off MSRP**

all in stock at this discount

## 2004 S60 SDN.



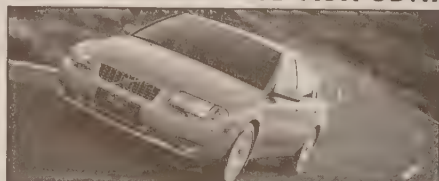
- AUTOMATIC
- LEATHER
- PREMIUM PACKAGE
- ALLOY WHEELS

MSRP \$32,090  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$4,302  
YOUR PRICE

**\$27,788**

5 at this price

## 2004 S80 2.9 AWD ASR SDN.



MSRP \$42,455  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$6,567  
YOUR PRICE

**\$35,888**

STK#30611  
VIN#349275

1 at this price

## VOLVO OF FAIRFIELD

PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**HYUNDAI**  
2595 Auto Mall Parkway - Fairfield 1-800-496-0617

**AMERICA'S BEST WARRANTY™ PLAN\***  
10-year/100,000-mile Powertrain Protection  
Limited Powertrain Warranty  
5-year/60,000-mile Bumper-to-Bumper Coverage  
5-year/Unlimited-miles 24-hr. Roadside Assistance  
Warranty available for review at dealership

## HUGE MOVING SALE!

**WE HAVE MOVED OUR SALES & SERVICE TO THE FAIRFIELD AUTO MALL!**

## 2004 ACCENT COUPE

MSRP \$10,604  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$ 2,116  
SALE PRICE \$ 8,488  
FACTORY REBATE \$ 500  
NET COST TO YOU



**\$7,988 2 AT THIS PRICE**

## 2004 SONATA SDN.

POWER MIRRORS  
AUTOMATIC  
POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS  
CRUISE CONTROL  
CD PLAYER  
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY  
& MUCH MORE!  
MSRP \$17,500  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$1,512  
SALE PRICE \$15,988  
FACTORY REBATE \$1,000  
VALUE OWNER COUPON \* \$1,000



**\$13,988 7 AT THIS PRICE**

\*HYUNDAI'S VALUED OWNER COUPON. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A REGISTERED OWNER OF A VEHICLE DISTRIBUTED BY HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA, YOU CAN RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$1000 OFF A NEW 2003 & 2004 HYUNDAI ELANTRA, \$1000 OFF A NEW 2003 OR 2004 SANTA FE, SONATA OR XC350. THIS VALUED OWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM IS EFFECTIVE DEC. 1, 2003 THROUGH JAN. 1, 2004.

## HYUNDAI OF FAIRFIELD

PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**KIA**  
3901 Sonoma Blvd - Fairfield 1-800-496-0617

**10 YEAR 100,000 MILE WARRANTY PROGRAM**

10 YEARS/ 100,000 MILES LIMITED POWERTRAIN WARRANTY  
5 YEARS /UNLIMITED MILES 24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE  
5 YEARS /50,000 MILES LIMITED BASIC WARRANTY  
5 YEARS/ 100,000 MILES ANTI-PERFORATION WARRANTY  
\* Warranty available for review at dealership

## '03 KIA SPECTRA GS SDN.

- AUTOMATIC
- AM/FM CD PLAYER
- AIR CONDITIONER
- CARPETED FLOOR MATS



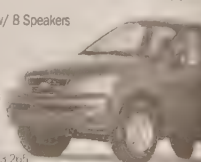
STK#3088 ID#110185  
STK#3126 ID#116960

MSRP \$14,194  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$1,206  
SALE PRICE \$12,988  
FACTORY REBATE \$2,000  
NET COST TO YOU

**\$10,988**

## '03 KIA SORENTO LX 4X4 SUV

- Automatic
- AM/FM CD Player w/ 8 Speakers
- Power group
- Anti Lock Brakes
- Alloy Wheels
- Roofrack
- Carpeted floor mats



MSRP \$25,205  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$1,217  
SALE PRICE \$23,988  
FACTORY REBATE \$2,000  
NET COST TO YOU

**\$19,988**

STK#3083 ID#086042  
STK#3161 ID#162195

**SPECIAL FINANCE MANAGER ON HAND FOR CREDIT PROBLEM CUSTOMERS SUCH AS BANKRUPT, BAD CREDIT, SLOW CREDIT, COLLECTIONS AND MORE. ON APPROVED CREDIT. CALL DIRECT 707-777-7777**

## BARBER KIA

PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**TOYOTA**  
2575 Auto Mall Parkway - Fairfield  
1-888-343-0249

## DECEMBER SALES EVENT

**'04 COROLLAS** **0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT** **'04 MATRIX**

0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS AT \$27.78 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC.



**1.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT**

1.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS AT \$21.65 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC.

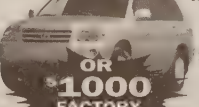


**2.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT**

2.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS AT \$17.92 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC. FACTORY REBATES IN LIEU OF FINANCING.

**'03 HIGHLANDER** **0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT** **'03 4RUNNER**

0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS AT \$27.78 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC.



**1.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT**

1.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS AT \$21.65 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC.



**2.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT**

2.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS AT \$17.92 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC. FACTORY REBATES IN LIEU OF FINANCING.

**'04 CAMRY** **0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT** **OR \$750 FACTORY REBATE**

0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS AT \$27.78 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC.

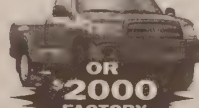


**1.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT**

1.9% APR FOR 60 MONTHS AT \$17.48 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC. FACTORY REBATES IN LIEU OF FINANCING.

**'03 TUNDRA** **0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT** **'04 TUNDRA**

0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS AT \$15.67 PER MONTH PER \$1,000 FINANCED, BASED ON \$0 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH TMCC. FACTORY REBATES IN LIEU OF FINANCING. EXCLUDES TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB.



**OR \$2000 FACTORY REBATE**



**OR \$1000 FACTORY REBATE**

**2004 CAMRY LE SDN.** **2004 COROLLA CE SDN.**

- AUTOMATIC
- AIR CONDITIONER
- POWER WINDOWS
- POWER LOCKS
- AM/FM WITH CD



MSRP \$20,574  
FFTOYOTA DISCOUNT \$3,136  
SALE PRICE \$17,438  
FACTORY REBATE \$750  
NET COST TO YOU

STK#140594  
VIN#2828013  
STK#140542  
VIN#2827710

**\$16,688**

2 AT THIS PRICE

- AUTOMATIC
- AIR CONDITIONER
- AM/FM WITH CD
- POWER STEERING
- & MORE!



MSRP \$14,972  
FFTOYOTA DISCOUNT \$2,184  
SALE PRICE

STK#140756  
VIN#286104  
STK#140880  
VIN#281939

**\$12,788**

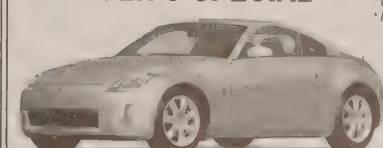
2 AT THIS PRICE

PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**NISSAN**  
2545 Auto Mall Parkway - Fairfield  
1-888-899-7535

SHIFT...

## 2004 NISSAN 350Z MANAGER'S SPECIAL

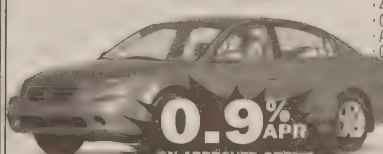


- Automatic
- Xenon Headlights
- Traction Control
- Limited Slip
- Aluminum Pedals

**SALE PRICE \$29,988**

STK#40313 VIN#161346

## 2004 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S

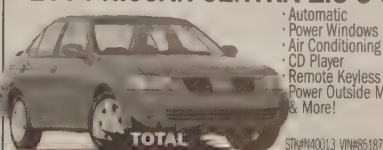


- 175 HP Engine
- 4 Wheel Disc Brakes
- CD Audio System
- Air Conditioning
- Cruise Control

**SALE PRICE \$17,888**

STK#40218 VIN#150757  
STK#40219 VIN#150763  
STK#40220 VIN#150764  
STK#40264 VIN#150765

## 2004 NISSAN SENTRA 1.8 S SDN.



- Automatic
- Power Windows & Locks
- Air Conditioning
- CD Player
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Power Outside Mirrors
- & More!

**SALE PRICE \$10,988**

STK#40013 VIN#81874  
STK#40130 VIN#83902  
STK#40000 VIN#83738  
STK#40301 VIN#814220

## 2004 NISSAN FRONTIER XE KING CAB



- Automatic
- Power Windows & Locks
- Air Conditioning
- CD Player
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Power Outside Mirrors
- & More!

**SALE PRICE \$13,488**

STK#40396 VIN#406535  
STK#40132 VIN#071865

PRICES PLUS GOVERNMENT FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. AND ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.



# REDUCED DMV FEES ARE NOW IN EFFECT!

THE BUICK STOPS HERE!  
If you're not completely satisfied with parts, service or sales, call Ron Barber at 1-800-496-0481.

**SUZUKI**  
4325 Sonoma Blvd. Vallejo 1-800-496-0481

**SUZUKI**  
Make the smart move.™

**BRAND NEW**  
7 YEAR/100,000 MILE WARRANTY  
VOTED "BEST WARRANTY IN AMERICA"  
WARRANTY AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT DEALERSHIP.

**2003 SUZUKI VITARA**  
MSRP \$17,319  
BARBER DISCOUNT -\$3,331  
SALE PRICE \$13,988  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET COST TO YOU  
**\$11,488**  
1 AT THIS PRICE

**2003 SUZUKI XL-7 LX 7 PASSENGER**  
MSRP \$22,499  
BARBER DISCOUNT -\$3,504  
SALE PRICE  
**\$18,995**  
5 AT THIS PRICE

**2003 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 4X4**  
MSRP \$22,394  
BARBER DISCOUNT -\$3,906  
SALE PRICE \$18,488  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET COST TO YOU  
**\$15,988**  
3 AT THIS PRICE

**BARBER SUZUKI**

FINANCING FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**DODGE CHRYSLER**  
4325 Sonoma Blvd - Vallejo 1-800-496-0481

THE BEST VALUES IN AMERICA... JUST GOT BETTER!!  
**2004 DODGE CARAVAN SXT**  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,000  
LION KING REBATE -\$500  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$6,000 OFF MSRP**  
ALL IN STOCK AT THIS PRICE

**2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,000  
FACTORY REBATE -\$3,500  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$6,500 OFF MSRP**  
ALL IN STOCK AT THIS PRICE

**'04 DODGE RAM BIG HORN DOUBLE PLAY**  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,750  
CONQUEST OFFER -\$750  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$7,000 OFF MSRP**  
5 AT THIS SAVINGS

**2004 RAM 2500 SLT QUAD CAB CUMMINS 24V DIESEL**  
THIS IS THE REAL DEAL!  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$4,250  
CONQUEST OFFER -\$750  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$7,500 OFF MSRP**  
5 AT THIS SAVINGS  
\*MUST BE A REGISTERED OWNER OF A VEHICLE.

**2004 RAM 2500 SLT QUAD CAB CUMMINS 24V DIESEL**  
THIS IS THE REAL DEAL!  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$5,500  
FACTORY REBATE -\$2,500  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$8,000 OFF MSRP**  
1 AT THIS SAVINGS

**BARBER VALLEJO**

FINANCING FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

**LINCOLN MERCURY**  
4325 Sonoma Blvd - Vallejo 1-800-496-0481

VEHICLE REGISTRATION HIKE HAS BEEN REPEALED  
NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY!  
**2004 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR**  
STK#LM4028 ID#J07811  
STK#LM4044 ID#J08247  
LEATHER POWER FOLD 3RD ROW SEAT  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$7,000  
FACTORY REBATE -\$3,000  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$10,000 OFF MSRP**  
2 AT THIS SAVINGS

**ALL 2003 LINCOLN AVIATORS**  
FACTORY REBATE \$4,000  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$7,000  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$11,000 OFF MSRP**  
ALL IN STOCK

**ALL 2003 LINCOLN LS**  
FACTORY REBATE \$6,000  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$6,000  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
**\$12,000 OFF MSRP**  
ALL IN STOCK

OVER 300 QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES  
CARS • TRUCKS • MINIVANS • SUVs

USED '03 HYUNDAI ACCENT SDN. STK#H0107363 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$6,995</b>	'99 FORD RANGER SUPERCAB P/U STK#F0107399 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>SOLD</b>	'00 NISSAN ALTIMA SE SDN. STK#N0107399 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$9,995</b>	'00 DODGE MARK II CONVERSION VAN QUAD COUNTRY CHAIR PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$9,995</b>
USED '00 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE STK#M00107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$12,995</b>	'02 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER WGN. STK#C0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$12,995</b>	USED '03 TOYOTA CAMRY LE SDN. STK#T0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$14,995</b>	'98 FORD COBRA CONVERT. CPE. STK#F0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$15,988</b>
USED '03 NISSAN XTRERA SUV STK#N00371406 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>SAVE</b>	USED '03 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 V8 SUV STK#C0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$28,995</b>	'02 LINCOLN LS SDN. STK#L0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$22,988</b>	USED '03 CHEVY 2500 CREW CAB DURAMAX DIESEL 4X4 P/U STK#C0107367 PREVIOUS RENTALS <b>\$33,988</b>

**BARBER VALLEJO**

FINANCING FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.

## INFINITI Of Fairfield



**INFINITI OF FAIRFIELD**  
2855 Auto Mall Parkway  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
1-800-496-0489  
www.infiniti-offairfield.com

**INFINITI I35 Sedan**  
MSRP \$30,799.00  
AT THIS PRICE

**MITSUBISHI MOTORS**  
wake up and drive  
4345 Sonoma Blvd. Vallejo  
1-800-956-5337

**MITSUBISHI MOTORS**  
wake up and drive™  
7-year/100k Mile Limited Powertrain Warranty. Terms & Conditions Available.  
Copy of Warranty available for review at dealership.

**USED 2003 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES SDN.**  
CD PLAYER  
AUTOMATIC  
POWER WINDOWS  
TILT WHEEL  
POWER LOCKS  
STK#MP1073 VIN#071418  
STK#MP1072 VIN#034926  
PREVIOUS RENTALS  
**\$9,988**  
2 at this price

**USED 2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES SDN.**  
AUTOMATIC  
CD PLAYER  
POWER WINDOWS-TILT WHEEL  
CRUISE CONTROL  
STK#MP1071 VIN#114706  
STK#MP1074 VIN#114776  
PREVIOUS RENTALS  
**\$10,988**  
2 at this price

**2004 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE RS CPE**  
STK#M40007 VIN#039731  
STK#M40008 VIN#039735  
STK#M40012 VIN#040076  
STK#M40014 VIN#040532  
AIR CONDITIONING  
ALLOY WHEELS  
TILT WHEEL  
POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS  
& MUCH MORE!  
**\$16,888**  
4 at this price  
OR  
**\$259 PER MONTH**  
ON APPROVED CREDIT  
4 AT THIS PAYMENT  
72 MONTHS AT 5.35% APR TOTAL DOWN PAYMENT \$999 CASH DOWN OR CUSTOMER TRADE FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH 700 FICO SCORE

**2003 MONTERO LIMITED 4X4 SUV**  
SUNROOF  
LEATHER  
WOODGRAIN  
CD PLAYER  
KEYLESS ENTRY  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,000  
MTBU OWNER LOYALTY REBATE\* -\$3000  
FACTORY REBATE -\$4,000  
NET SAVINGS TO YOU  
EXAMPLE:  
MSRP\$38412  
BARBER DISCOUNT \$3,000  
SALE PRICE \$35,412  
MTBU OWNER LOYALTY REBATE\* -\$3000  
FACTORY REBATE -\$4,000  
NET COST TO YOU \$28,412  
\* MUST BE CURRENT REGISTERED OWNER OF A MITSUBISHI VEHICLE  
**\$10,000 OFF MSRP**  
5 at these savings

**BARBER MITSUBISHI OF VALLEJO & FAIRFIELD MITSUBISHI**  
FINANCING FEES AND TAXES. ANY FINANCE CHARGES. ANY DEALER DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHARGE. ANY EMISSION TESTING CHARGE. FINANCING SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OFFER EXPIRES 24 HOURS AFTER PUBLICATION.











ment

Registry  
ies Surgical  
0.452.4626 Bus  
4642-Fax  
1123517271

N, LVN, CNA  
ic. Best team!  
avail. FT/PT,  
ay & Environ.  
33-3862

inders

Professional Choice  
 PAYSSS  
 UTING  
 SE: 12/11/03  
 Hill Area

Saint Hill, Co  
 Courtyard  
 am-5pm  
 IA Welcom  
 Day Hire  
 n/Travel/  
 ontracts  
 66-598-7904  
 finders.com  
 Danville SNF  
 ds & RNS  
 or Fantasic  
 Atmosphere!  
 837-4556  
 1207540498  
 of Nursing  
 ds, Mill Val  
 level not for  
 serving mo  
 income ex  
 DON sp  
 bed rehit  
 Priva  
 Certified Es  
 ts/Compet  
 resume/rela  
 in Hogan, Ad  
 10 Camer  
 CA 94941

woods are  
893-0115  
5238-7774

Director of Staff  
Must be RN  
State Healthcare  
Top pay &  
Indy staff  
589-9222  
1206539657

3: D.O.N.  
Employee  
D Skill in the  
of Oakland  
Opportunity for  
b working  
eat pay Pts  
me attn. Pat  
3496 or call  
Exp. pref'd

OMECARE  
 & need VOL  
 s 1 on 1 care  
 ROSSMO  
 good  
 need LVNs  
 to the BEST  
 for the BEST  
 Sale Today!  
 -5577

ified.

value  
ered  
fore  
nes  
he  
Bay  
an

Other  
ily  
paper!

Medical Center SMMC, a for-profit hospital, serves the communities of eastern Colorado. It is a premier not-for-profit hospital.

positions qualify for a special job opportunity - talented candidates are those

al Care Unit • Telemetry • Call  
or & Delivery • Medical Support  
Services • Physical Therapy  
Supervision & Management  
Emergency • Radiology

[www.sutterdelta.org](http://www.sutterdelta.org)

WEB ID 1207029

SE PRACTITION  
ER OPPORTUN

California Depart  
ment is Hiring

Bay State Prison is on the Pacific coast in

rescent City and  
California Medical  
located in 1999.

us today 1-800-458-4584 or visit [rr.ca.gov](http://rr.ca.gov) to learn  
 about retirement benefits and how to apply for them.

up to \$5,221\*  
\$1,000 per month  
Sign-on Bonus and  
First-Phase Bonus  
FAX: (877) 800-8000  
healthrecruit.com  
ID: C0050733

gers &  
tives

50,000  
CFOs 1125K

- Controller
- Engin'g 160k
- Manuf'g 160k
- Non-profit 160k
- Legal 160k
- Sales 60-200k

ementjobs

100











# Real Estate Section

**Automobiles**

**HONDA** 1987 Civic, 5 spd., runs grt, 75k mi. on new eng. \$1200. 510-215-2914

**HONDA** 1987 CRX, cd. cond., needs brks. \$700. 925-240-7610/925-988-9585

**HONDA** 1984 Accord, A/T, runs gd, high oil, 70K on eng. \$500/obo. 925-354-6164

**HUMMER**

For Additional Hummer Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**HONDA**

For Additional Hyundai Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**Automobiles**

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**LINCOLN**

For Additional Lincoln Listings

**Automobiles**

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**MERCEDES**

For Additional Mercedes Listings

**Automobiles**

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**NISSAN**

For Additional Nissan Listings

**Automobiles**

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**SUBARU**

For Additional Subaru Listings

**Automobiles**

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**CLICK ON**

New & Used

**TOYOTA**

For Additional Toyota Listings

**What do you need to be haute?**

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**From haute cuisine to haute couture, Shopping Plus every Friday.**

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**What do you need to be haute?**

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Shopping Plus**

Look inside for local advertising solutions even Friday

**Classified.**

Your Best Value Delivered to More Homes In the East Bay Than Any Other Daily Newspaper!

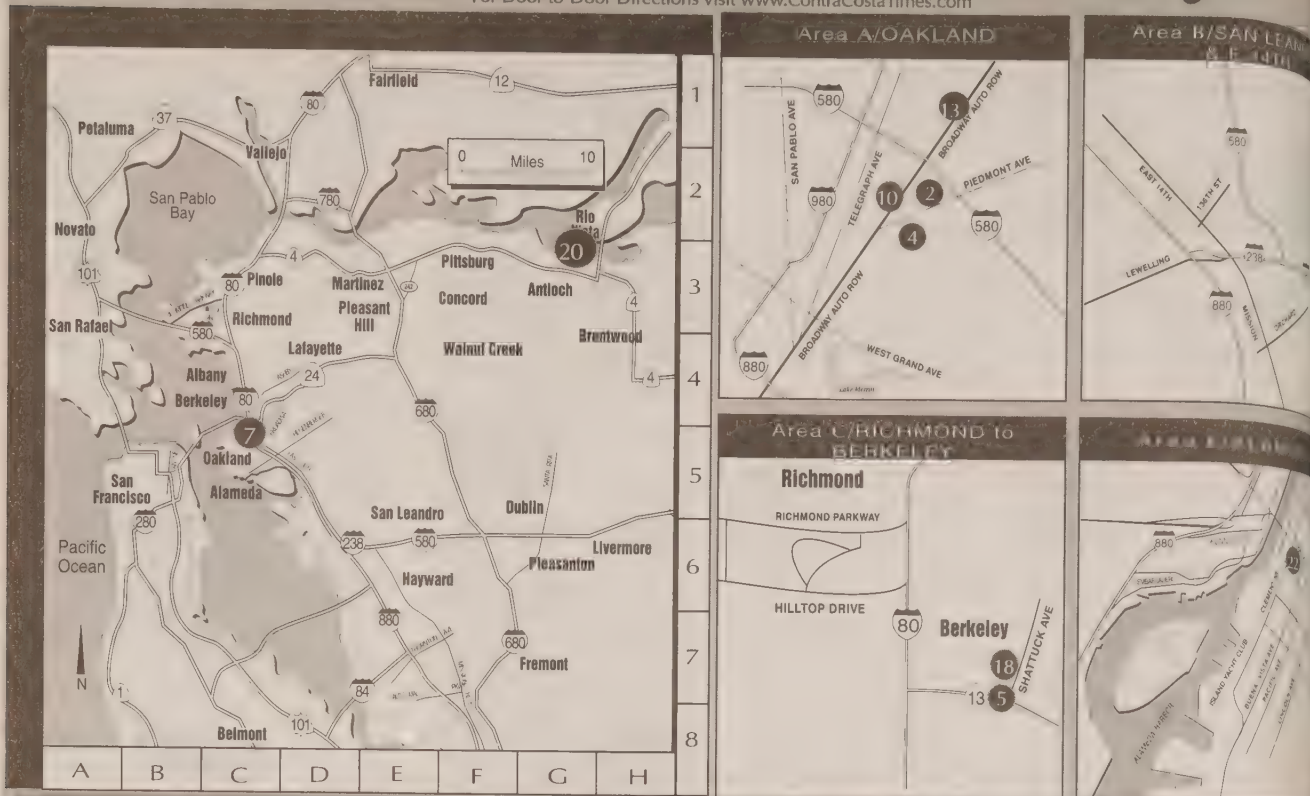
**HILLS NEWSPAPERS**

THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTICLOCA THE PIEDMONT/VALLEJO JOURNAL



cars.com

## Hills Auto Directory

For Door-to-Door Directions visit [www.ContraCostaTimes.com](http://www.ContraCostaTimes.com)

cars.com

ANTIOCH  
AUTO  
CENTER• Toyota • Chrysler  
• Plymouth • Jeep  
• Dodge • Nissan

1-800-778-4388

[www.antiotechautocenter.com](http://www.antiotechautocenter.com)OAKLAND'S  
TOYOTA  
STORE!

## DOWNTOWN TOYOTA

4145 BROADWAY • OAKLAND  
510-547-4635

## TOYOTA

Toyota  
of  
Berkeley2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley  
(510) 845-2530

## CONNELL NISSAN

3000 Broadway, Oakland  
We Will Not Be  
UNDERSOLD!  
510-588-2100

cars.com

TOYOTA  
Experience  
Toyota  
VALLEJO10 Years Running  
1001 Admiral Callaghan Dr., Vallejo  
(800) 660-5660CAVANAUGH  
MOTORS1700 Park Street, Alameda  
(510) 523-5246

## SATURN

Saturn of Oakland  
2355 Broadway Auto Row  
(510) 839-6400

cars.com

JIM DOTEN  
HONDA2600 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley  
510.843.3704  
[www.jimdotenhonda.com](http://www.jimdotenhonda.com)EAST BAY  
THE FORD TRUCK/SUV HEADQUARTERS!333 Filbert Street  
By Jack London Square  
Oakland • 510-272-4400CHEVROLET  
GOOD  
CHEVROLET1630 Park St., Alameda  
(510) 522-9221SCION  
of  
Berkeley2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley  
510.845.2530

## CHEVROLET

3. Good Chevrolet Area E  
1630 Park St., Alameda  
(510) 522-9221

## CHRYSLER

22. Cavanaugh Motors Area E  
1700 Park Street, Alameda  
(510) 523-5246  
75 years serving Alameda

## DODGE

20. Antioch Dodge G-3  
Corner of Somersville & W. 10th St.  
(925) 778-9700

## FORD

7. East Bay Ford Truck Area C5  
333 Filbert St. • Oakland  
YOUR FORD TRUCK/SUV HEADQUARTERS!  
(510) 272-4400  
[www.eastbaytruckcenter.com](http://www.eastbaytruckcenter.com)

## HONDA

5. Jim Doten Honda Area C5  
2600 Shattuck Avenue • Berkeley  
(510) 843-3704  
[www.jimdotenhonda.com](http://www.jimdotenhonda.com)

## NISSAN

1. Connell Nissan  
We Will Not Be Undersold  
3000 Broadway, Oakland  
(510) 588-2100

20. Antioch Nissan G-3  
1615 West 10th St.  
(925) 755-2600

## SATURN

14. Saturn of Oakland Area A  
2355 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland  
(510) 839-6400

## SCION

18. Scion of Berkeley  
2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley  
(510) 845-2530

## TOYOTA

13. Downtown Toyota Area A  
4145 Broadway, Oakland  
(510) 547-4635

18. Toyota of Berkeley Area C  
2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley  
(510) 845-2530  
[www.toyotaofberkeley.com](http://www.toyotaofberkeley.com)

20. Antioch Toyota G-3  
1810 "A" Somersville Rd.  
(925) 778-7200

21. Toyota Vallejo D-2  
1180 Admiral Callaghan Way, Vallejo  
(800) 660-5660

cars.com

cars.com

Receive a new car quote or view pre-owned vehicles from our cars.com dealer partners. Start your car shopping at cars.com





# Shopping Plus

ARTISING SUPPLEMENT

Friday, December 12, 2003

**Look inside** for local advertising circulars every Friday



**LIGHTING EFFECTS** CAN pack a presence during the day as well as light up the night. From bottom left to top and right: presents galore, falling stars, storm clouds and stars, and bird's nest.



## Try these twinkling holiday displays that also look good before it gets dark

BY GAILE ROBINSON  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Here's what you know: A lot of work goes into those exterior holiday lights — and then they only look good at night. Here's what you need to know: You can make those lights and lighting effects look good 24-7. Lighting effects can pack a presence during the day as well as light up the night.

Memories of holiday lights from years past inspired one of these half-dozen day-to-night designs. Another was made to please the wildlife, while a third was assembled to excite the neighborhood kids.

I strongly believe that a small concentration of lights is as effective as outlining the entire roofline.

Of course, this could be because I don't like getting on ladders. Most of these designs can be done without the aid of mechanical elevation and were quick to produce.

### The Christmas tree

Why not move the indoor theme outdoors? This small pear tree functioned as the Christmas tree, and three translucent storage boxes became the big, bright presents.

#### Supplies:

- 2 strands C-9 green lights (\$19.56 at Target)
- 2 strands ribbon lights (\$11.88 at Wal-Mart)
- 3 large translucent storage boxes (\$26 at Container Store)

See DISPLAYS, Page 2



# Give & Save

**COUPON**  
Coupon valid ONLY: THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 12/11/03-12/13/03.

**\$10**  
Spend \$50 or more and take \$10 off your entire purchase!

**COST PLUS**  
WORLD MARKET

**All Holiday & Mottled Pillar Candles**  
Set of 12 unscented pillar candles in a great selection of colors. Sizes range from 4" to 6". Reg. \$4.99-\$14.99. NOW \$3.99-\$11.99.

**SAVE 25% All Holiday Basket**  
A collection of holiday-themed items, including candles, figurines, and more. Reg. \$19.99-\$24.99. NOW \$14.99-\$18.99.

**SAVE 20% All Tabletop Frames & Photo Storage**  
A collection of tabletop frames and photo storage units. Reg. \$3.99-\$24.99. NOW \$3.19-\$19.99.

**SAVE 10% All Tabletop Frames & Photo Storage**  
A collection of tabletop frames and photo storage units. Reg. \$11.49-\$14.99. NOW \$10.34-\$13.49.

**Bulb Kits**  
Choose from amaryllis, paperwhites, hyacinth or crocus bulb kits. Large bulb kit includes hyacinth bulb, \$12.99. Set of 3 small bulb kits with crocus bulbs, \$12.99.

**Bulb Kits**  
Choose from amaryllis, paperwhites, hyacinth or crocus bulb kits. Large bulb kit includes hyacinth bulb, \$12.99. Set of 3 small bulb kits with crocus bulbs, \$12.99.

**BEERS WORLD**  
A collection of beer-related items, including beer glasses, beer coasters, and more. Reg. \$10.99-\$14.99. NOW \$9.99-\$13.49.

**Spa Luxuries**  
Sugar and salt scrubs in tempting scents such as lavender, pomegranate and peppermint-rosemary. Soothing herbal eye pillows with silk covers. Fabrics vary by store. Entire spa collection, \$9.99-\$24.99.

**WINE**  
A collection of wine bottles, including Yellow Tail Chardonnay, Meridian Chardonnay, Hess Select Chardonnay, Murphy-Goodie Fumé Blanc, Chateau Souverain Chardonnay, Rosemount Shiraz-Cabernet, Cline California Zinfandel, Bogle Merlot, Falesco Vitiano, Toasted Head Meritage, J. Lohr Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon, La Crema Pinot Noir, Ridge Coast Range Zinfandel, Franciscan Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chateau Duhart-Milon 2000.

WHITE WINES		REG	NOW	REG	NOW
Yellow Tail Chardonnay	5.99	4.49	Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	13.99	10.99
Meridian Chardonnay	8.99	5.99	Omaka Springs Sauvignon Blanc	12.99	11.99
Hess Select Chardonnay	9.99	6.99	Alois Lageder Pinot Grigio	13.99	12.99
Murphy-Goodie Fumé Blanc	9.99	7.99	Grgich Hills Fumé Blanc	15.99	14.99
Chateau Souverain Chardonnay	11.99	8.99	Conundrum	23.99	21.99
RED WINES		REG	NOW	REG	NOW
Rosemount Shiraz-Cabernet	5.99	4.49	J. Lohr Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon	12.99	10.99
Cline California Zinfandel	7.99	5.99	La Crema Pinot Noir	15.99	14.99
Bogle Merlot	7.99	6.99	Ridge Coast Range Zinfandel	16.99	15.99
Falesco Vitiano	8.99	7.99	Franciscan Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon	21.99	19.99
Toasted Head Meritage	9.99	8.99	Chateau Duhart-Milon 2000	29.99	24.99
SPARKLING WINES		REG	NOW	REG	NOW
Cristalino Brut	9.99	8.99	Mumm Cordon Rouge NV Brut	26.99	24.99
Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante	9.99	8.99	Duval-Leroy Cuvee Paris Brut	24.99	22.99
Piper Sonoma Brut	12.99	9.99	Laurent-Perrier NV Brut	29.99	24.99
Gloria Ferrer Brut or Blanc de Noirs	13.99	11.99	Veuve Clicquot NV Brut	32.99	28.99
Domaine Carneros Brut	19.99	15.99	Dom Perignon	89.99	84.99

**COST PLUS WORLD MARKET**

World Market Wine & Spirits in various locations: Colma on Serrano Blvd., Concord in Willow Shopping Ctr., Fairfield on Gateway Blvd., Fremont on Farwell Dr., Greenbrae, Hillsdale Mall, Mountain View on El Camino Real, Oakland on Clay St., at Jack London Square, Pleasanton, San Francisco at Fisherman's Wharf, San Jose on Blossom Hill Rd., and also on Stevens Creek Blvd., Santa Cruz on River St., at Hwy. 9, Santa Rosa on Santa Rosa Blvd., at Hearn, Vallejo on Gateway Plaza Ctr., Walnut Creek Mt. Diablo Blvd., at S. California. Offers good while supplies last. Offers end 12/21/03. Call 1-800-COST-PLUS (1-800-267-8738) for locations and hours or visit us at worldmarket.com.



## Displays

FROM PAGE 1

- 3 large Mylar gift bags (\$14 at Container Store)
- 3 spools very wide ribbon (\$16 at Garden Ridge)
- 3 strands white twinkle lights (\$29.97 at Target)
- Clear tape (\$2.99)

Total cost: \$120.40

**Directions:** Wrap the top of the tree in green lights. Wrap the trunk in white twinkle lights. Suspend one strand of twinkle lights in each box. Using clear tape, attach the light strand to the sides and top of box, to spread the lights throughout the box (otherwise they just sit on the bottom in a sad little pile).

Boxes with hinged tops that are split down the middle have a place to pull the light cord to the outside. If the tops are one solid piece and snap on, you'll have to cut a notch out of the top edge of the box so the cord can exit the box. A Dremel tool or small saw can be used to cut a notch.

Pull the cord out the side of the box until the first light is about to exit. Now, wrap the box as if it were a present. If your box has a colored top, and many of them do, wrap it so the top that is not translucent will be on the bottom.

The Mylar gift bags work well for wrapping purposes — they are waterproof and thin enough that the lights shine through. Make sure the light cord has a place to escape the wrapping. Now tie a big ribbon around the box.

The presents have a great daytime look, and at night they have an enticing glow.

### Falling stars

These stiff paper stars were hung from a single branch on a very large tree. They accentuate the graceful sweeping limb and make a strong visual presentation.

- Supplies:**
- 3 three-dimensional paper stars
  - 3 light bulbs specifically made to fit the stars and 3 electrical cords made specifically for

the light bulbs. (\$23.85)  
Total cost: \$73.85  
**Directions:** String the electrical cords along a tree branch, the porch roof, or above the front door (some protection from the elements is recommended). Hang so that the light bulbs are at different heights. Tie the stars around the light bulbs. This is a quickie, and quite effective.

### Storm cloud and stars

A large, round bush on a multi-trunk base was the anchor to this decoration.

- Supplies:**
- 2 strands each of intense blue and purple twinkle lights (\$19.98 from ChristmasDepot.com)
  - 2 strings of star lights, each with 10 stars (\$75 from ChristmasDepot.com)
  - 10 yards each of red and green tulle (\$13.80 from Hancock Fabrics)
  - 60 yards of purple tulle (\$41.40)

**Directions:** String the blue and purple twinkle lights throughout the foliage. Wrap the star lights around the bush, draping them in such a way that you see all of them — they are too expensive to hide.

Wrap the red and green tulle around the bush. The leaves and small branches will hold it in place.

These colors add depth to the purple tulle, which is wrapped last. This is an expensive design, but one that is quite eye catching.

### Bird's nest

This green nest with a blue egg was designed to be placed in a small tree or bush. It is subtle during the day and gives an intense burst of light at night.

- Supplies:**
- 2 bunches grapevine (\$3.96 at Garden Ridge)
  - 2 bags green raffia (\$3.98 at Garden Ridge)
  - 1 strand green twinkle lights (\$9.99 from ChristmasDepot.com)
  - One 6-inch ball blue lights (\$16 from ChristmasDepot.com)
  - 1 paddle green florist's wire

(\$1.50 from Michael's)  
Total: \$35.43  
**Directions:** Wind the grapevine branches into a nest shape. Use 6-inch pieces of thin floral wire to hold the vines in a nest shape.

If the grapevine is brittle, soak it overnight to make it flexible. Wrap the green twinkle lights around the nest, making sure you put some around the top edge.

Use more 6-inch pieces of floral wire to hold them in place. Cut 6-inch pieces of green raffia and use them to tie hunks of raffia together. It's like making a ponytail of raffia.

Use 3 or 4 pieces of the short raffia to tie the raffia ponytail top, bottom and a couple of places in between. Each bag of raffia will make about 6 ponytails. Wrap the ponytails around the nest and hold them in place with short pieces of wire. Place the egg (the blue lights) in the nest.

### Rainbow branches

Multi-trunked trees, such as crape myrtles, can be used to great effect when the trunks are strung with different-colored strands of twinkle lights. To give more daytime pizzazz, artificial flowers were tied to the end of the light string.

This effect can also be used with a large single-trunk tree by running the different-colored lights along different branches. Oaks, with their graceful branches, work particularly well.

- Supplies:**
- 5 strands twinkle lights in different colors (\$14.95 at Wal-Mart)
  - 3 bunches artificial flowers, reassembled to make 5 bouquets (\$2.97 at Garden Ridge)
  - Clear packing tape (\$2.99)
  - Floral wire (\$1.50)
- Total cost: \$22.41  
**Directions:** Each strand of lights was run up one of the trunks as far as I could reach, then back to the ground and back up again. The leftover lights were wired into a bunch and taped to the tree. Clear packing tape held the lights to the trunk. A bunch of flowers was taped to the branch at the top of the light strand.

## Could there be a better holiday than one that brings a tool or two?

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS

KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

At this time of year, I am inundated by holiday gift suggestions of every description.

Some of these things are so bizarre that I just toss the promotional material out or delete it from my already too-long e-mail list.

I prefer, instead, to write about gifts that keep on giving. In my mind, those are tools.

So, as you head out to the mall or sit at your computer in the next few weeks, consider some things that have caught my eye recently.

One is Black & Decker's FireStorm cordless 18-volt drill and radio charger. I know, it sounds like vegetable soup, but that's what it's called.

It's not the first on the market, but it's the newest one, and just a bit different from the rest.

First, it comes with a drill/driver that, when not in use, sits in a docking station on the radio charger.

The drill has an electronic level that illuminates at 90 degrees. The AM-FM radio has an accessory drawer on either side that holds extra drill bits, nails and screws.

It comes with two 18-volt batteries. When you aren't near a power source, you can use one to operate the drill and the other for the radio.

Price: \$109.99. Available at home centers. Information: 800-544-6986 or www.blackanddecker.com

### New twists

Stanley Tool's ZAG folding workbench is being offered with a new feature: a storage bag for tools.

The bag has 13 different kinds of pockets, straps and pouches. It attaches to the bottom half of the unit, so the tools are easily accessible while you work.

The workbench surface has a molded ruler, a built-in storage compartment for two adjustable vise clamps that come with the bench, a drill holder, and a fastener organizer. A shelf underneath can hold still

more tools.

Price: \$40. Available at home centers. Information: www.stanley-works.com.

### Twisting again

Stanley introduced an adjustable sawhorse a couple of years back, but has decided to go one better with a sawhorse that has telescoping "metal legs."

The ZAG sawhorse is made of metal and resin, and can hold up to 2,900 pounds per pair.

The adjustable legs allow the sawhorse to be leveled at the most unlevel work sites. Each leg has a lever that slides and locks to allow easy extension and retraction.

Price: \$30 each. Available at home centers. Information: www.stanleyworks.com.

### Laser tape

Strait-Line tools has just introduced a measuring device that employs a laser rather than tape to determine lengths.

You simply point the device and push the read button. A laser beam pinpoints the surface to be measured and calculates the distance.

The laser tape measures distances from 2 feet to 50 feet quickly with an accuracy ratio of plus or minus 3 inches at 50 feet.

By pushing a button, you can calculate area and volume, convert feet to meters, read measurements, and add a measurement to memory or recall it.

Price: \$59. Information: www.strait-line.com.

### Some more books

I've been back to the bookstore recently, and have come up with some more suggestions:

"The Kitchen Planner" Books, \$29.99. This book shows you can see how to plan spaces and how to stay on top of kitchen trends. It contains a section on counter tops and has clip-type art components that you can insert into a grid on the back of the book.

A little more complex for professional use is "A Field Guide to the Home Improvement Building Code," \$34.95. The book covers subjects, including: drywall, masonry, stone walls, block walls (an interior and hot tubs). It's one of Black & Decker's guides, including the and plumbing.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY BLACK AND DECKER's and radio charger is a multipurpose device that for \$109.99. It's cordless and comes with two batteries.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY BLACK AND DECKER's and radio charger is a multipurpose device that for \$109.99. It's cordless and comes with two batteries.

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO**  
**Big Brothers & Big Sisters**  
*Help Save a Child's Life*

**1-877-700-GIVE**

www.carsforcharities.com

It's like a new recipe book each week: Shopping Plus

**Maaco** PRESIDENTIAL Paint Service  
America's BodyShop • Value Prep

Reg. \$449<sup>90</sup> Now Only \$399<sup>95</sup>

Must present coupon at the time of estimate. Hurry, limited time only! Expires 1/1/04

1825 West 10th Street • Antioch • (925) 755-2447

Insurance Claims Welcome!

Vans, trucks, SUV's and commercial vehicles by estimate. Bodywork, rust repair and stripping of old paint extra. Not valid with any other offer. MAACO Auto Painting & Bodyworks centers are independent franchises of MAACO Enterprises, Inc.

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL!**

- Rhino Linings TUFF STUFF® Polyurethane forms a watertight seal on the truck bed preventing rust and corrosion
- Sprays-on up to 1/4" thick...Will not crack, warp or peel
- Textured surface reduces cargo slippage, noise and vibration

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**

**Rhino Linings**

**RHINO LININGS OF CONTRA COSTA**  
1825 West 10th Street  
Antioch • (925) 755-2432

Present this coupon to receive a discount.  
Not valid with any other offer. Expires 1/1/04

**\$25 OFF ANY SPRAYED-ON BED LINER!**

**Bay Area Drainage Solutions**  
*"For All Your Drainage Needs"*

- Specializing in Residential Drainage
- French Drains
- Down Spout Drainage Systems
- Sub Drain/Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls

**925-377-9209 Office 925-683-5508 Cell**  
License #762208

Our Christmas Shop is having a  
**Store Wide Sale!**

**SAVE**

- 20% OFF on 12/8 to 12/14
- 30% OFF on 12/15 to 12/21
- 40% OFF on 12/22 to 12/24

**MASTER NURSERY**

**East Bay Nursery**  
The Bay Area's place for plants... and Christmas

2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley • (510) 845-6490  
Open: Mon-Sat 8:30-5:00 • Sun 10:00-5:00 • Xmas Eve 8:30-1:00

The 34th Annual  
**"Joy of Christmas"**  
**Craft Show**  
at WARD'S MALL  
Hwy 680 and Monument Blvd • Pleasant Hill

**Every Day until Christmas**

Open Daily 10 AM - 8 PM  
Fri & Sat 9 PM

**Free Admission**

**Are Your Windows Draining Your Pocket?**  
Call or visit website for Free Report

**WEST COAST WINDOWS**

**Anlin** Window Systems  
Authorized Anlin Window Systems Dealer

**25% OFF**  
Energy Efficient Windows and Doors with an order of 3 or more  
Expires 12/31/03

Call today for your free measurements and estimate  
**(925) 681-1776**  
**2170 Commerce Ave. #C • Concord**  
Lic. B-472589, C17-814384  
Showroom Hours: M-F 8-5, Sat. 10-3  
www.wcwindows.com

**Robert G. Aycock, M.D.**  
Certified by the American Board of Dermatology

**Complimentary Luncheon Seminar**  
Thursday, December 11, 12-1:30p.m.  
1855 San Miguel Dr., Ste. 4, Walnut Creek

**Is 2004 the Year for Your Makeover?**  
**Be informed...**

Join us for lunch and discover the possibilities for you

**Interactive Demonstrations:**

- Learn how lasers can refresh and restore your skin to a more youthful beauty
- Parsipar Peel (microdermabrasion) for a smoother more youthful complexion
- Lunch Time Peel for minimizing lines and creating luminous glow
- Collagen Replacement for lip enhancement
- Botox to smooth out frown lines and crow's feet
- Computer Imaging to show how facial surgery can turn back time

Invite a friend, join us for lunch, educational demonstrations, door prizes and gift certificates.

Pre-Registration required. Space is limited. **925-937-8811**

**STOREWIDE HOLIDAY ART SALE**  
**Best Prices & Selection in the Bay Area**  
*The Only Thomas Kinkadee Dealer In The East Bay*

**FREE**  
Highlighting & Coffee Table Book\*  
With Any Limited Edition Canvas Purchase  
(Retail Value \$160)

**\$100 OFF**  
With Coupon  
Any Art Purchase  
Of \$1,000 or more  
Not good with any other offer.  
Expires 12/14/03

**SF Lombard St. by Thomas Kinkadee**  
18 x 24 Framed Canvas Value \$1950  
Our Price \$1,250 Less \$100 Coupon!

Over 100 Artists! Hundreds Of Pieces On Sale!  
Over 1500 Pieces In Stock

**Collector's Corner Art Gallery**  
2441 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon  
**925.829.3428**

Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-6;  
Fri 10-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5  
\*While supplies last.  
www.ccartgallery.com



## Small tree has many advantages over a big one

BY CANDY HOEDEL

Choosing the biggest blue tree you can get in the door, con- sidering the advantages of a smaller tree in a tabletop stand. The tree, she stands them- selves to be attractive. Large-tree tree stands don't have the weight load and the water they have to bear. Smaller tree stands don't have the weight of a skirt. Decorative cast metal or painted aluminum tree stands are made to be seen. Christmas tree stands are highly collectible, and can be sold for over \$100 in antique shops or on eBay.

Banning of Overland Park, Kan., a rotating German stand integrated music box that she put in her family for four gen- erations. Today, the stand is a trea- surable object in Banning's home. 30-odd years ago, she

says, it held the family's live Christ- mas trees year after year.

"I remember as a grade-school kid mother would put a 5-foot tree in the stand," Banning says. The stand was placed on a table, she says, "so we could see it well. And it wasn't going to support a real tall tree."

Keep in mind that many antique tree stands offer no water reservoir, because people did not keep live trees up for as long as they do now.

If you like to have your tree up for two weeks or longer, you should choose either a stand with a reser- voir and a live tree or go with an arti- ficial tree.

Kathy Kelly, lead designer at Helix Architecture+Design, finds table- top trees appealing because of, not in spite of, their smaller stature. "I love the idea of over-scale or under- scale."

In addition, Kelly says, people tend to be more selective when they put decorations on a tabletop tree.

"It's edited," she says.

Plus, with a raised tree, Kelly points out, you can see the skirt and the presents. "Some people spend a lot of time on beautiful wrappings, and then you can't even see them (under a big tree)."

A smaller tree on a table opens up interesting new possibilities in terms of location. For example, Kelly recalls being in a home in which the Christmas tree was on a table in the middle of a room, directly beneath an attractive light fixture.

"That placement made it a fea- ture of the room," Kelly says. "From all sides, you could see through the branches, really see the ornaments. A big tree would have been inap- propriate in the same spot."

Banning says her family put their tree antique stand on a table for a practical reason: so they could turn the music box on and off.

These days Banning uses arti- ficial trees because her son has asthma. But she still puts the tree on a platform "so you can see the skirt. And to follow a tradition."

### Tabletop tips

Rich Hoffman, co-owner of Christopher Filley Antiques in Kansas City, offers the following guidelines for displaying a tabletop tree:

■ Use a tabletop tree to display your best ornaments. Vintage or an- tique ornaments get lost in big trees.

■ Place a tabletop tree in a pre- dominant spot where you will see it constantly, for example, on a de- milune table in an entranceway.

■ Treat the tree as an accessory. During the 1910s and '20s, people used decorative fences around the base of Christmas trees. Inside the fence they would display celluloid animals or small toys. The fences were made of carved wood and stood 3 to 4 inches high. Most are painted green or white.

■ Artificial trees are an environ- mentally friendly choice for small trees. "Most people aren't inclined to chop a small tree down to enjoy it for just a couple of weeks," Hoff- man says.

■ Some new artificial trees are so attractive they don't even need or- naments to create drama. For ex- ample, trees frosted with "ice" (a sprayed-on clear polymer that beads up), can hold their own with just a few pine cones.

## Holiday Shopping Fact:

Nearly one in four Ameri- cans completes their gift shop- ping during the last week of Christmas, according to the 2002 American Express Retail Index.

## GRANITE COUNTERTOP SPECIALISTS!



- Wholesale to the Public
- One of Northern California's Largest Granite Fabricators
- Over 70 Granite Color Slabs in Stock!
- Two Week Turnaround



**SOSA**

526 Commerce Way, Livermore  
sosagranite@aol.com • Lic. #512183  
**Office 925.373.7675**  
Fax 925.373.9593

### WINDOW MAX

#### WHOLE HOUSE HOLIDAY SAVINGS SPECIAL

## \$2995.00

Based on 600 u.i. Expires 12/31/03 OAC

Max says, "I'll save you money!"

### 0% DOWN

#### Payment Financing Plans Available

Until Summer

Open Daily 10am-6:30pm Sat. 10am-4pm

SUNNYVALE	SF. SAN FRANCISCO	CONCORD
301 W. Washington Ave.	777 E. San Bruno Ave.	1310 Monument Blvd.
Lic. #728475	<b>925-356-2420</b>	

VISA MC

## DIAMOND TERRACE

### Senior Retirement Living

#### Honoring Our Elders

"I never dreamed I'd ever be this happy again."

*Wilma*

"Diamond Terrace gave me my mom back!"

*Wilma's Daughter, Ramona*

"My daughter heard how lovely it was. When I saw it I fell in love with it! My view is delightful and the staff is so nice to me."

*Lora*

### Come Celebrate

#### New Year's Eve at Noon!

From 11 a.m. to 12 noon

- Free Senior Fitness Class Every Friday at 11:15 a.m. with Jeff in our lobby
- Call for your complimentary lunch and tour

(925) 524-5100 6401 Center Street, Clayton, CA

## GIANT 50% OFF SALE!

### BENICIA FOUNDRY SHOWROOM CLEARANCE

Everything in our showroom is on sale—beds, patio furniture, garden items, beautiful home accessories...and more!

~WITH THIS COUPON ONLY~  
Shop early for best selection.

**BENICIA FOUNDRY & IRON WORKS, INC.**  
2995 Bayshore Rd. • Benicia • 800-533-9110  
www.beniciafoundry.com

**Showroom Hours**  
Mon. - Sat. 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun. 11 am - 5 pm

**JUST OFF HWY 680**  
—Northbound—  
Bayshore Rd exit turn right  
—Southbound—  
Industrial Park exit turn right, left at Park, left at Bayshore

**Benicia Foundry & Iron Works, Inc.**  
2995 Bayshore Rd. • Benicia • 800-533-9110  
www.beniciafoundry.com

## Featuring plumbing products of the highest quality

- Whirlpools • Bathtubs
- Kitchen Sinks • Faucets
- Toilets • Showers
- Accessories and more!

Come into our showroom and see our large selection of quality kitchen and bath fixtures for people with discriminating taste.

### Save on quality fixtures always!

**Open to the Public BATHS & KITCHENS 2000**

**LUXURY BATH & KITCHEN SHOWROOM**

**SHOWROOM HOURS**  
Mon - Sat 9 am to 5 pm Closed on Sunday  
1238 Diamond Way • Concord  
**925-671-9700**  
(behind Tower Records)

## It's Unbelievable Apple Time!



**WE SHIP FedEx**

Excellent Holiday Gifts ~ \$24.50 shipped anywhere in the continental USA!

**WE SHIP FedEx**

Excellent Holiday Gifts ~ \$24.50 shipped anywhere in the continental USA!

Come see what's new!

- 3 foot tall handmade Candy Canes
- Chocolate Sprinkled handmade Marshmallows
- Crisp Pecan Pralines
- Montmorency Cherry Divinity
- Crisp thin Peanut, Cashew and Coconut Brittles
- Christmas Peppermint Taffy
- Hot Cocoa in Holiday Red Gift Tins
- Hazelnut Gianduja
- Fresh Cream Truffles
- English Toffee in White, Milk & Dark Chocolate
- Fresh Homemade Chocolate Walnut Fudge
- French Chocolate Covered Cherries on the Stem
- Handmade Marshmallow Rocky Road
- 40 Varieties of old fashioned Hard Candies
- Caramel Stars
- 1930's original moulded Santas and snowmen



### Our retail store is now expanded!

We've added viewing windows so you can see our Master candy makers create confections daily. Every day we will be producing fresh new confections, from fluffy marshmallows and our signature buttery caramel to golden crisp brittles and handmade Christmas taffy. Bring the kids and enjoy watching the magic!

We welcome you to come see, come taste and celebrate the season with us!

Sincerely,  
Rachel Dunn and the entire  
Grand Avenue Chocolates family



**Grand Avenue Chocolates**  
1021 Detroit Avenue  
Concord, CA 94518  
(925) 798-4321

www.grandavenuechocolates.com

Open 7 days a week 9am to 6pm

Take 580N to Monument Blvd. exit. Go right at the exit, and follow to Detroit Avenue. Go right on Detroit and follow exactly 1/2 mile. We are located past Costco on the right.







# Christmas can be imaginative, Swell

ALISON KAPLAN  
PIONEER PRESS

Alison Kaplan started a holiday gift guide for the Pioneer Press. She is a former New York City editor and her "style" magazine, "Swell" (Swell Books, \$16), that is in the top 10 in its category. She produces a lifestyle line of gift guides that ranges from curtains to camisoles. Her latest book, "Swell Holiday Gift Guide" (Swell Books, \$16), that is in the top 10 in its category. She produces a lifestyle line of gift guides that ranges from curtains to camisoles. Her latest book, "Swell Holiday Gift Guide" (Swell Books, \$16), that is in the top 10 in its category.

The next Martha Stewart, she's not. "These are not ideas that require you to sit down with a glue gun and chicken wire," she snaps. What's needed to pull off a Swell holiday, she says, is creativity and personality. Rather than giving her coffee-loving father a generic basket of beans last year, Rosenzweig turned it sentimental by getting seven coffee mugs imprinted with family photos. For her brother, she made a giant frozen lasagna (red and green), since his freezer is always empty. She had silver napkin rings engraved with tidbits meaningful to her parents — the address of their first home, their anniversary, the place they met. "The energy goes into being imaginative," she says. "It's high-concept."

But if the best you can come up with is a gift certificate, here are more of Rosenzweig and Rowley's clever suggestions to put personality into presents:

- Customize a plain date book with your own daily affirmations, inspiring quotes, country music trivia facts, French phrases or vocabulary words.
- Pair a cute '50s purse (shopping vintage will save you a bundle) with a copy of Audrey Hepburn's "Sabrina."
- Give a great book with a bottle of wine. Inscribe the book: "Something to pour over."
- Regifting can be thoughtful — if you give away something meaningful. Dig up your old copy of "Black Beauty" and other childhood classics and give them to your nieces.
- Gift certificates made memorable: Give Dad a voucher to rent a convertible for a weekend.
- Distinguish your hostess gifts: Dress up a wine bottle with a good

luck horseshoe, mistletoe, dreidel or even a tiara. Or how about a box covered with the word "Joy" filled with Almond Joys? ■ Wrap your gift in an empty Tide detergent box. Add "Yule" above the Tide logo. ■ Rather than ribbon, trim your gift with bright shoelaces, sprigs of evergreen or licorice whips. ■ Give a book on tape — recorded by you. As the Swell girls say in their book, "Make it through a whole novel, and this present is as extravagant an expense of time as making a quilt!" The only difference: You can't duplicate a quilt and give it to everyone on your list. "Don't Book a spa day!" Allison Kaplan covers consumer issues for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. She can be reached at [akaplan@pioneerpress.com](mailto:akaplan@pioneerpress.com).

## LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS AND RECEIVE A UTILITY REBATE.

Get a new heating and cooling system and save money in two ways — on your energy bills and a utility rebate. Call for details.

**Whatever it takes bryant**

**Stewart HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**  
(925) 687-1313  
UC 290747

Save money by ending from Bryant and participating dealers. Savings Bonds vary by make and size. Rebate must be installed by December 15, 2003.

**PRIME RECEIVE UP TO \$1,000 IN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS**

**WANTED 50 Gas & Electric Customers**

**For No Interest Home Improvement Loans**

**Products Covered:**

1. Heating & Air Conditioning
2. High Performance Windows
3. Attic Insulation
4. Wall Insulation
5. Exterior Insulated Siding

**Benefits Of Participation:**

1. Reduce Heating Bills up to 50% compared to Existing Equipment
2. Make No Down Payment and Pay Zero Interest o.a.c.

**In Order To Qualify:**

1. You Must Own Your Home
2. You Must Call CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICE For A Priority Number Before 12/31/03

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICE 800-906-6629**  
CA License #711102

**Lampshades! Stiffel**

Authorized Lampshade Replacement Center  
WALNUT CREEK  
1566 Palos Verdes Mall  
Pleasant Hill & Geary  
944-0414

**the finishing touch**

**REMEMBER: BRING IN YOUR LAMP BASE FOR PROPER FITTING**

**HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30; Sun. 11-5**

**Holiday Sale!!**

The largest selection of kitchen cutlery now on sale for the holidays.

**Buy Value. Give Quality.**

**Sonoma Cutlery**

1611 N. Broadway  
Walnut Creek 925-937-4288

*Across the street from the Walnut Creek Library*

**Beverly's Custom Frame Shop of Concord**

Professional, certified framers  
Quality custom framing and creative design services at affordable prices  
Ready in 7 business days!

- Fine Art
- Needle Work
- Tapestry, Rugs
- Documents, Diplomas
- Photographs
- Animation Cells
- Posters, Prints
- 3-D Items
- Shadowbox Framing Available
- Conservation/Archival Mats, Mounting, Glass
- Glass Replacement

**Hurry in for our Pre-Christmas Framing SALE**  
*Good Dec. 10-15 to be guaranteed by Christmas*

**50% OFF reg. prices**  
**ENTIRE FRAME ORDER**  
with purchase of custom frame.

*May not be used on purchases made through Beverly's.com. Valid in Concord only. Can not be combined with any coupon, discount or sale in effect.*

**CONCORD • 4677 Clayton Rd. • 925-686-1885**  
located in the TJMaxx Center  
*Look for our next ad in Thursday's Concord Transcript*

**ULTIMATE ROMA FEAST**

**ULTIMATE ROMA FEAST \$9.99 per person**

Includes 95¢ Louie Style Ribs, Barbecued Chicken, Smoked Sausage, Corn on the cob & Cole Slaw

**TONY ROMA'S FAMOUS FOR RIBS**

**Livery Shopping Center**  
200 Sycamore Valley Rd., West, Danville  
(925) 831-1818

Please recycle this newspaper.

**BABY-BABY-BABY!**

Great Brands at Great Prices  
Legacy • Ragazzi • Dutilier • EG

**Leonards TOT SHOP**

548-0 Contra Costa Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill, CA  
682-5888

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Since 1949

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL RESULTS.**

HAIR REMOVAL AND SKIN REJUVENATION

Advanced Laser Clinics has performed more than 100,000 laser hair removal and skin rejuvenation treatments nationwide. Call today to find out how easy and affordable it is to achieve your desired results.

San Mateo & Walnut Creek  
(66) 54 - LASER

[www.advancedlaserclinics.com](http://www.advancedlaserclinics.com)

Angela, 53, Manager  
Advanced Laser Clinics patient

## ADVANCED LASER CLINICS OF SAN MATEO, A MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

## RELAX, ARNOLD. WE'VE ROLLED BACK OUR OWN PRICES!

**HONEYBAKED HAM FOR AS LITTLE AS \$22.00**

Californians deserve holiday savings this big! So celebrate Christmas with a tender, slow-smoked HoneyBaked Ham for as little as \$22.00. Can you believe it? Just bring in this coupon and we'll take \$6.00 off the regular price of a tender, slow-smoked HoneyBaked Ham with our signature crackling sweet glaze that starts at a price of \$28.00! You can also save \$6.00 on any other ham. Save \$12.00 on any Whole Ham. Hurry! Each store has a limited supply of \$28.00 genuine HoneyBaked Hams.

**SAVE \$12 ON A WHOLE HAM Or \$6 ON A HALF HAM**  
toward Gift Certificate purchases. Offer available only at the stores listed below. Good through 12/31/03.

**HONEYBAKED®**

San Mateo: (650) 595-8551 • COLMA: (650) 756-8892 • CONCORD: (925) 689-1510 • FREMONT: (408) 499-0336  
PALMDALE: (805) 499-0336 • PALO ALTO: (415) 321-4292 • PALO ALTO: (415) 321-4292 • PLEASANTON: (925) 734-9418  
SAN FRANCISCO: (415) 931-7363 • SAN JOSE: (408) 247-1501 • SAN JOSE: (408) 247-1501 • STANFORD: (650) 734-9418

**TEMPUR-PEDIC**  
PRESSURE RELIEVING SWEDISH MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS

1539 N. Main Street,  
Walnut Creek  
925-945-0455  
(Across the Street from Prima)  
Open Daily 10:30am-7pm

**No Sales Tax, PLUS**

**FREE Delivery and Set-up**  
**FREE Removal of Old Mattress**  
**90-Day Comfort Guarantee**  
We accept Workman's Comp Claims

**2 FREE Pillows (w/purchase of large mattress)**  
**FREE Financing 12 mos. O.A.C.**  
**\$200 Credit Towards Purchase of Fine Furniture**  
Offer Expires 12/12/03

**Save Now on Professionally Installed Garage Doors and Openers**

**GK & Over 20 Years Experience**  
Lic. #448122

**SALES & SERVICE**  
See Our Showroom!  
2400 Devpar Ct. • Antioch  
(925) 778-4687

**\$329.00 LiftMaster**  
Includes tax & labor  
• All Steel Drive Parts  
• Lifetime Motor Warranty  
• Door Lock Feature  
• 41/2 Minute Light Delay  
• Security+™ Anti-Burglary Coding  
• One-step control with new fail-safe electronic eye  
Cash price - personal checks okay. Offer expires 1/1/04

**\$889.00 WINDSOR DOOR Steel Rollup Door**  
Includes tax & labor  
• Windsor additional with 1/2 HP LiftMaster Deluxe Opener  
• World's Largest Opener Manufacturer  
One car control with new fail-safe electronic eye. Door available in white, almond and brown. 15' x 7' or 16' x 7'. Heavy duty hardware. Cash price - personal checks okay. Offer expires 1/1/04

**BEATS Home Depot**

**REPAIRS • SALES • INSTALLATION**

**natural granite countertops**

Fabrication and installation of

- ❖ fine granite countertops
- ❖ vanities
- ❖ fireplaces
- ❖ showers
- ❖ tub surrounds

Visit our designer showroom ❖ Open to the public

**Diamond Bullnosing Co., Inc.**

**"Excellence in Granite Fabrication & Installation"**  
Show Room Location: 1950 Olivera Road, Suite B • Concord  
Tel: 925-685-7100 Fax: 925-685-7200 • Email: [Info@4stone.com](mailto:Info@4stone.com)  
Monday-Friday 7am to 5pm • Saturdays by appointment



## Lunging into the holiday season

BY NANCY COLE  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Is losing weight during the holidays a losing proposition? The holiday hazards of too little time for exercise and too many indulgences are hard hurdles to overcome.

If we can commit to maintaining our weight, there are ways to consolidate time in the gym and still have time for holiday events. The key is moderation in consumption and diligent exertion.

To maximize your time, combine your cardiovascular and weight training sessions. Keep rest periods short, use higher repetitions and try to focus on compound exercises such as squats and lunges, in which you work multiple muscle groups. Save the isolation moves for January.

The lunge is a compound exercise that is extremely effective for developing your legs and

glutes. It requires balance and coordination. There are many different lunges: forward lunges, reverse lunges, walking lunges, alternating lunges and stationary lunges. You should experiment with all of them.

A lunge with a nice degree of difficulty is the stationary lunge using a bench for elevation. First, balance a bar across your shoulders with a wide grip. Make sure your elbows are pointed down, your spine is neutral and your head is up. Extend your rear leg back to balance your foot on the bench with your toes pointing down and your torso erect. Your weight should be on the forward, working leg.

Once you feel balanced and are properly positioned, slowly descend into the lunge until your front knee and shin form a 90-degree angle. Be very conscious of your

form, ensuring that your front knee never passes your front toes and that your chest is open and your shoulders remain down throughout the exercise.

Then, slowly return to the starting position. You should feel your quads, glutes and hamstrings working. Try 15 to 20 repetitions and then switch legs. If you are just beginning, omit the bar and focus on your form, using your body weight for resistance.

Maintaining good exercise habits and indulging in holiday festivities don't have to be mutually exclusive. We can trim our thighs and trim our trees, lift our spirits and lift our glutes, we just have to moderate our intake of traditional treats and exercise a little smarter during the holiday season.

Nancy Cole is a certified personal trainer who teaches at Body & Soul in Coral Gables, Fla.

**Stained Glass**  
Supplies & Gifts  
Gallery  
Classes Begin Monthly  
**Hot Box**  
STAINED GLASS  
1270C Newell Ave. Walnut Creek  
www.hotboxglass.com 925-988-9155  
Tues.-Sat. 10-6, Closed Sun. & Mon.

**Introducing The 2004 Toyota Sienna**  
RampVan Conversion  
Wheelchair Friendly  
**Economy Medical** 800-438-3323 IMS  
www.EconomyMedical.com

**5 Installed WINDOWS**  
for **\$1,999**  
FREE LoE2 Glass  
call (925) 363-3900  
**Thermaglass**  
windows and doors  
Based on 500  
United Inches  
CA Lic # 814428

**Energy Efficient Windows & Patio Doors**  
• NO STUCCO DAMAGE  
• NOISE RESISTANT  
• ENHANCE BEAUTY  
• INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
• INSULATE FROM HEAT & COLD  
• Lifetime Warranties  
• Quality Craftsmanship Guaranteed  
• Quality Old Fashioned Service  
• No Sub-Contractors  
• Utility Rebates  
• 15 Years Experience  
Senior Discounts  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
Experience a true family business. Nine brothers and sisters to ensure your 100% satisfaction!  
**BROTHERS**  
HOME IMPROVEMENT INC.  
Certified AAMA Installation Masters!  
Insured • Lic #699009  
925/828-5789  
510/498-5987  
800/672-3777  
www.brothershomeimp.com  
\*Offer not valid with other promotions

ENOUGH CAFFEINE TO  
ASSEMBLE EVERY GIFT  
UNDER THE TREE.

**TWO TO GO COFFEEMAKER**  
TTG-500  
**\$29.95**

**GRIND AND BREW 12-CUP AUTOMATIC COFFEEMAKER**  
DGB-500  
**\$99.95**

**Cuisinart**  
BREW CENTRAL 12-CUP PROGRAMMABLE COFFEEMAKER  
DCC-1200  
**\$99.95**



Spread holiday cheer by the mugful with the Cuisinart coffemaker collection, featured at Viking HomeChef. The Two To Go model (\$29.95) is perfect for the hurried Santa – it brews directly into two (or one) travel mugs. The Brew Central 12-Cup Programmable Coffemaker (\$99.95) ensures there's enough piping-hot joe for all the elves when the workshop opens. And with its classic stainless design, it looks good doing it. The Grind and Brew 12-Cup Automatic unit (\$99.95) combines elegant Italian styling with utilitarian features. It automatically grinds whole beans just before brewing for the freshest possible coffee. And of course, we have plenty more gift ideas to stuff your stockings – and turkeys – this year.

**VIKING**  
**HOMECHIEF**  
GOURMET STORE & COOKING SCHOOL

329 TOWN CENTER, CORTE MADERA (415) 927-3191  
3527 CALIFORNIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO (415) 668-3191

1600 SARATOGA AVE., #229, SAN JOSE (408) 374-3191  
1604 MT DIABLO BLVD., WALNUT CREEK (925) 943-3191

## Yes, Virginia, There is Installation by Christmas.

Because we have our own professional installation department instead of outside contractors, we're one of the few retailers who can say that. But say it we can, and we are. And, on approval of credit, you can get **zero payments and zero interest for six months** on purchases of \$500 or more. So, as long as it's in stock, you can have carpet, wood, tile, or laminate in time for the holidays and not part with a dime until spring. And we think that adds up to a jolly little holiday.

### Broadloom Carpet

**38-Oz. Stain Resist**  
Seven colors in stock  
Reg. \$36.95/sq.yd.

**\$20.95**  
Per sq. yd./installed with pad

**Karastan Nylon**  
The best – in-stock only  
Reg. \$36.95/sq.yd.

**\$22.95**  
Per sq. yd./installed with pad

**100% Pure Wool**  
and wool-acrylic blends –  
full rolls in stock as low as

**\$22.95**  
Per sq. yd./installed with pad

**Extra Heavy 70-oz.**  
Nylon installed with pad  
Reg. \$38.95/sq.yd.

**\$23.95**  
Per sq. yd./installed with pad

**Vista Del Mar**  
Anso Caress Soft Yarn  
Reg. \$51.95/sq.yd.

**\$32.95**  
Per sq. yd./installed with pad

**Any Three Rooms**  
Your choice of seven colors  
in stock – installed with pad

**\$493**  
Based on 38 square yd.

### Wood & Laminates

**Aventa Laminate**  
Four Colors in Stock  
Reg. \$2.99/sq.ft.

**.69**  
Per square foot

**Quickstep Laminate**  
Five Colors in Stock  
Reg. \$3.39/sq.ft.

**\$1.69**  
Per square foot

**Paramount Laminate**  
Five Colors in Stock  
Reg. \$5.99/sq.ft.

**\$3.50**  
Per square foot

**Solid Birch**  
3/4" Real Wood – Stock Only  
Reg. \$9.99/sq.ft.

**\$3.99**  
Per square foot

### Tile & Stone

**Multi-Color Slate**  
12"x12" in Stock  
Reg. \$2.44/sq.ft.

**\$1.79**  
Per square foot

**Imported Italian**  
Porcelain Tile – 3 Colors  
12"x12" in stock

**\$1.99**  
Per square foot

**Maxbro Polished Porcelain**  
16"x16" in Stock  
Reg. \$7.99/sq.ft.

**\$2.49**  
Per square foot

**Crema Marfil**  
Spanish Marble Tile  
12"x12" in stock

**\$4.49**  
Per square foot

### Special Purchase

**Crema Marfil Select**

This top grade 18"x18" tile is usually **\$11.99/sq.ft.**  
While this stock lasts – and that may be a long time – it's

**\$6.99**  
Per square foot

**Sale Ends Sunday, December 14.**

Installation by Christmas Offer Limited to Items in Stock

Dublin • 925 828 1559 Concord • 925 969 8888

**THE FLOOR STORE**

Richmond • 510 527 3203 Pittsburg • 925 473 3191



# GIFT IDEAS



HILLS NEWSPAPERS

[www.CONTRACOSTATIMES.com](http://www.CONTRACOSTATIMES.com)

Berkeley Voice

El Cerrito Journal

Alameda Journal

Montclairion

Piedmonter





MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND TEQUILA BAR

## Authentic Mexican Food

**Happy Hour**  
**4-6 PM**  
**Mon.-Fri.**

**House Margarita's \$3.50**

**Top Shelves \$2.00 OFF**

**All Appetizers HALF OFF**

- Catering Food Available
- Sunday Champagne Brunch 9am-1pm
- Open til 3am 7 days a week

**1440 Park Street**  
**Alameda, CA 94501**  
**(510) 769-9110**

## HOLIDAY SPECIAL

**4 MONTHS FOR \$100**

**ONLY \$25/MONTH TO CONTINUE**

**NO HIDDEN FEES! NO CATCHES!!**

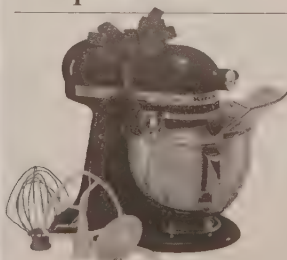
**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**  
**FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!!!**

**ALAMEDA ATHLETIC CLUB**  
**1226 PARK STREET**  
**510-521-2001**

**East Bay**

since 1934

**Professional Quality.**  
**Direct Prices.**  
**Open To The Public.**



KITCHEN-AID  
ULTRA POWER  
STAND MIXER  
Retail Price: \$269.99

**\$202<sup>49</sup>**



HAMILTON BEACH  
908 BAR BLENDER  
Retail Price: \$128.00

**\$69<sup>00</sup>**



ADMIRAL CRAFT  
PASTA COOKER  
Retail Price: \$118.00

**\$89<sup>00</sup>**



LE CREUSET  
SAUCE PANS &  
FRENCH OVEN  
PANS

Starting from  
**\$69<sup>99</sup>**

49 Fourth Street ♦ Oakland

510.465.4300 ♦ [www.chefsfirst.com](http://www.chefsfirst.com)

problem  
skin  
needs a little  
understanding.



Trained in the most advanced international techniques, Dermalogica therapists treat the cause of your skin problems, not just the symptoms. Whether you're concerned about acne breakouts or premature aging, combining the years of expertise with Dermalogica's cutting-edge formulations means that you can expect maximum results in a minimum of time.

Visit today for a free Face Mapping™ skin analysis and product samples.

Clinical Facials & Waxing for Men and Women

**Skin Deep at the Parlor**  
**Deborah Spalla**

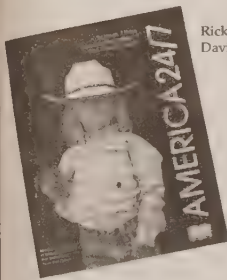
Esthetician  
1500 Encinal Ave.  
Alameda CA. 94501  
**510-522-7487**

**dermalogica**  
A skin care system designed to solve skin problems.

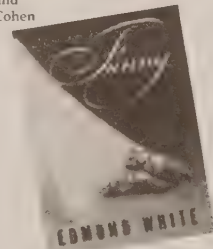




*Holiday Wishes Come True at*  
**2nd Edition**



Rick Smoian and  
David Elliot Cohen



Edmond White



**2nd Edition**

**Books & Gifts**

6120 LaSalle Avenue • 510-339-8210  
 Montclair Village

***The slopes  
 are calling!***

Are you ready? We have the  
 all the Bogner ski apparel and  
 accessories you'll ever need.

***Make your Holiday  
 dreams come true.***



**MONTCLAIR  
 SPORTS**

*High Quality & Competitive Prices from people who treat you right!*

1970 Mountain Blvd. • Oakland • 510-339-9313  
 Parking validated for the LaSalle Parking Garage  
 (at the top of LaSalle Avenue)

**The Montecristo he held tight  
 in his teeth, and the smoke, it  
 encircled his head like a wreath.**



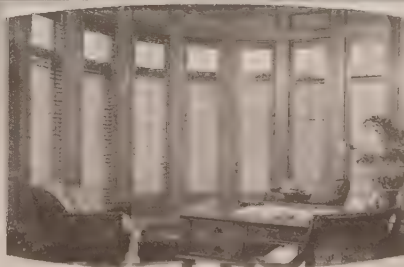
Celebrate the holidays with the rich flavor of  
 Montecristo Cigars, and bring your shopping list to  
 us for the finest holiday selection of

•Cigars •Pipes •Humidors •Accessories •Gifts



•PORT  
 •COFFEE

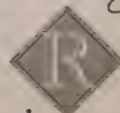
6218 LaSalle Ave. Oakland 510.339.8788 [www.lasallecigars.com](http://www.lasallecigars.com)



**HERITANCE™**  
 HARDWOOD SHUTTERS

Combining the timeless beauty of real wood with meticulous craftsmanship and  
 superb finishing, Heritance hardwood shutters bring classic detailing and style  
 to any room. Visit us today, and make your windows something to see.

**HunterDouglas** Gallery  
WINDOW TREATMENTS



**Raimondi's**  
*Montclair Village Tradition Since 1954*

2042 Mountain Blvd • Oakland  
 (510) 339-8853



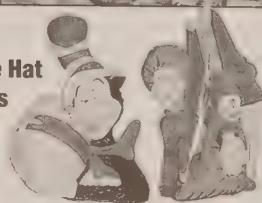
**Betty Boop  
Statue**

**\$24<sup>95</sup>**



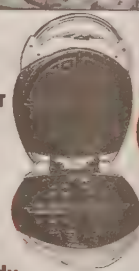
**Cat in the Hat  
Book Ends**

**\$29<sup>95</sup>**



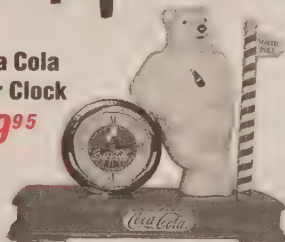
**Delonghi  
Waffle Maker**

**\$54<sup>95</sup>**



**Coca Cola  
Bear Clock**

**\$79<sup>95</sup>**



**Mini Mag  
Lite Combo**

**\$13<sup>95</sup>**



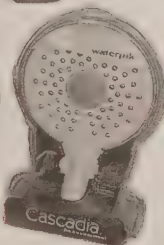
**Sun Dress Lady  
Salt & Pepper  
Set**

**\$15<sup>95</sup>**



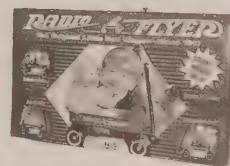
**Showerhead  
Drenching Rain**

**\$51<sup>95</sup>**



**Mini  
Radio Flyer**

**\$14<sup>49</sup>**



**Alice & Wonderland  
Cookie Jar**

**\$39<sup>95</sup>**



**Christmas Lights  
Mickey Set**

**\$17<sup>95</sup>**



**Holiday Village  
Houses**

**Assorted Designs**



**Pagano's ACE Hardware**

**1100 Lincoln Ave ■ Alameda**

**522-1345**

**So much more than a hardware store!**





# Happy Holiday Season



**KAMAKURA**  
**WE ARE PROFESSIONALS**

*We Can't Wait  
To Serve You!*

Lunch Special  
11:30am - 2:00pm

[www.kamakura-northern.com](http://www.kamakura-northern.com)

Dinner Party  
3:00pm - 10:00pm

2549 Santa Clara Avenue #1, Alameda

IN ROCKLEDGE

**B F**  
BARLOGA ET FILS  
GALLERY

*Urban Beauty*

**BARLOGA ET FILS GALLERY**

10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20

10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20, 10000 Road 20  
510.594.7700 [www.barlogastudios.com](http://www.barlogastudios.com)

# Entourage Salon... Spa... Spirit...

Offering a complete line of professional services in a hot-tub atmosphere

- Ultimate Facial
- Pampering Days
- Hair/Makeup/Nails
- Office Party At The Spa
- Several Massage Modalities
- Wine Bar & Spa Cuisine
- Gift Certificates Available

[www.entouragespa.com](http://www.entouragespa.com)



Entourage • 2 Theatre Square #100 • Orinda • 925.254.9721





*The Students and Staff of  
Chinese Christian Schools*

*Wish you a Blessed and Safe Holiday*

*1801 North Loop Road, Alameda • 510.522.0200*



Gifts for Awakening Mind, Body, Spirit & Home

Shop in Peace & Tranquility this Holiday Season.

If your Holiday list calls for Magical gifts,  
INSPIRED offers unique, one-of-a-kind gifts and a  
shopping environment sure to leave you, well,  
INSPIRED!

Crystals & Stones-Books-Music-Rings-Necklaces-Earrings  
Fountains-Candles-Silks-Aromatherapy-Essential Oils  
Fine Jewelry, Artwork & Sculptures by Local Artists

OPEN DAILY NOW THROUGH  
CHRISTMAS EVE

10am - 7pm

1487 Solano Avenue, Albany CA 94706  
(510) 527-3711

[www.inspiredgiftsonsolano.com](http://www.inspiredgiftsonsolano.com)

Be alive. Be awakened. Be INSPIRED!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
of ALAMEDA

Our sincere wishes for a  
happy and healthy Holiday  
Season to all the children of  
our community, our dedicated  
volunteers, and our faithful  
supporters.

Working together we make a  
difference in the lives of  
children each day.

*The Positive Place for Kids*



All Castelli  
Winter Wear

SAVE  
\$20-\$50

Good thru Dec. 21st

All in Stock Cannondale  
Road & Mountain Bikes

SAVE  
UP TO  
\$250

Additional mark downs on floor model  
bikes from Look, Serotta, Klein, Santa  
Cruz, Ritchey, Colnago and More!

SAVE  
UP TO  
\$1,000

SAVE  
\$50

on Winter Bike Overhaul and  
SAVE 20% off parts on all Tuneups

In store mark-downs on Oakley, Rudy Project, Briko.  
Wheel Systems from: Mavic, Ritchey, Campagnolo, Topolino & More!



3241 Grand Ave.  
Oakland

[www.cycle.sportsonline.com](http://www.cycle.sportsonline.com)

(510) 444-7900  
M-F 10-7, Sat. 10-6  
Sun. 11-5





# ART GLASS

**Robert and Deanna Davis  
Chuck Vannatta**

*hand blown glass  
glass blowing demonstrations*

**Dec. 13 & 14 10 - 4**

Or by appointment  
Davis 913-0367  
Vannatta 681-7955

**Open Studios: 675 37th St Oakland**  
Off street parking down the driveway at 675 37th

*Shop Oakland  
for the Holidays*



*Montclair Village  
Piedmont Avenue  
Grand & Lakeshore  
Rockridge*

## Village SoundZ

Music CD's,  
Cell Phone &  
Accessories

A Music &  
Communications  
Boutique

Special Orders  
Gift Certificates  
Personalized Service  
Rare Box Sets and  
Collectables  
Music Consulting

*"You don't have to leave  
Montclair for your Music & Cell  
Phone needs"*

**verizon**wireless  
We never stop working for you

**Montclair  
Village**



2052  
mountain  
boulevard  
oakland  
california  
94611

Phone:  
510.  
339.  
2393

E-Mail:  
VillageSoundZ@  
comcast.net

www.VillageSoundZ.com

# LIVING TRUSTS

- FREE Initial Consultation
- No Charge for amendments

We can show you how to  
save taxes & probate fees

**Howard D. Neal**

*Attorney at Law*



**Neal & Associates**

6200 Antioch St. #202, Oakland, CA 94611

(510) 339-0233

HDNeal@Nealaw.com





## HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE



*New  
Products!*

*Great  
Results!*

**Call Us Today for  
Advertising Information**

**(510) 748-1221**

## Happy Holidays from Juanita's Restaurant

Christmas parties welcomed ~ please ask for free appetizers!

# Juanita's

Home Style Mexican Cooking



We cater all types of events  
please call to make  
arrangements.

Special for the month  
of December  
TAMALES chicken and pork

FULL BAR!

**GREAT FOOD • GREAT PRICES • GREAT SERVICE**

**Celebrate the Holidays at Juanita's Restaurant!**

**COME VISIT US SOON! YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE!**

Breakfast 7am-11am • Open Until 3am Daily • Take Out Orders Welcome  
1324 Park Street • Alameda • Phone 865-2588 • Fax 865-2271



**Sushi House**  
japanese restaurant & sushi bar



Open 7 days a week from 11AM to 10PM  
Tel: 510-865-0999 • Fax: 510-865-2406  
2226-B South Shore Center, Alameda  
[www.e-sushihouse.com](http://www.e-sushihouse.com)

## View from Top of Russian Hill

San Francisco Art Institute

**PETE'S CAFE CATERING**



Now Offering Our Spectacular Dining Room with views of the  
San Francisco Bay for all Your Special Events

Theme & Cocktail Parties • Formal Dinners  
Box Lunches • Holiday Parties & Receptions  
Buffets & Weddings



**Off-Site Catering Also Available**  
Contact Paul Glaviano at:  
**(415) 749-4567**  
800 Chestnut Street





SPACCIO • 140 FRANK H OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CA 94612

TEL: (510) 251-3600 • Fax: (510) 251-8606

www.spacciomenswear.com  
info@spacciomenswear.com

CONTEMPORARY

STYLE

CASUAL

TRADITIONAL

Spaccio is the quintessential purveyor of style. Committed to bringing quality, sophistication and the best of service to our affluent customers.

**20% DISCOUNT**  
**ON ANY PURCHASE**  
**WITH THIS ADD**  
(EXCLUDES SALE ITEMS)

Open Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 6:30 pm

Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



Shop for:  
Suits | Sport Coats  
Shirts | Ties | Slacks  
Sportswear | Shoes

In any Fashion Style:  
Traditional | Casual  
Contemporary

# TULLY'S

## == COFFEE ==

### Oakland

**Enjoy 10% off any Coffee Beverage**

Valid at any Tully's Coffee Location



expires 12/31/03

## Free Second Set of Prints



Personal Service Since 1950



3268 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, CA 94610 • 510/893-6960

## AREA RUGS

Prices And Selection You Won't Resist.

Take Yours Home Today!



**Largest Selection in East Bay**

**SAVE up to**  
**30-50% OFF**

Our Entire Wool Rug  
Inventory for a Limited  
Time Only!

Give your decor a colorful lift and distinctive accent with area rugs. Area rugs provide a spectacular focal point to any decor! We have the shapes, sizes and styles you want! Visit our showroom soon.

**Bamboo Flooring**  
**\$3.94** sq.ft.

**WOOL and** from  
**NYLON**  
**BERBERS** **\$ .99** sq.ft.

OAKLAND • 510-633-9533 BERKELEY • 510-883-2111  
36 Hegenberger Ct. 1065 Ashby Avenue

**DICK'S**  
**CARPET ONE**

Open 7 Days • Mon.-Sat. 9-6 • Sunday 12-5





## OAKLAND ICE CENTER

Annual Ice show starring some of the best skaters in the Bay Area and special guest professionals. Evening and matinee shows.

**December 20 at 8:00pm**  
**December 21 at 2:00pm**

Call for tickets, show times, and information about OIC programs.

519 18 Street Oakland  
Phone: 510-268-9000  
[www.oaklandice.com](http://www.oaklandice.com)

*Holiday  
Magic  
On Ice*

## Shop the World in Oakland's Neighborhoods

EXPERIENCE • DINE



**OAKLAND**

Oakland's 35 commercial districts offer unique shopping opportunities and friendly, personalized service.

By purchasing your Holiday gifts in Oakland, you are helping to support recreation programs, libraries, fire prevention, and police services. Sales tax revenue from your purchases help keep these and other City of Oakland programs free or affordably priced. For more information on shopping destinations in Oakland and holiday promotions, visit

[www.shopoakland.com](http://www.shopoakland.com).



## THE CHRISTMAS REVELS

A Theatrical Celebration of the Winter Solstice  
This year featuring music, drama  
& dance of Elizabethan England

with Geoff Hoyle and Deborah Doyle

**December 12-14 & 19-21, 2003**

SCOTTISH RITE THEATER,  
1547 LAKESIDE DRIVE  
LAKE MERRITT, OAKLAND

**TICKETS: \$17-\$35**  
DISCOUNTS FOR CHILDREN,  
SENIORS, AND GROUPS

**415-621-1216 OR**  
[WWW.CALREVELS.ORG](http://WWW.CALREVELS.ORG)

This program is supported by the Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission & funded by the City of Oakland's Arts and Cultural Arts Dept. This Project is supported, in part, by a grant from the Alameda County Art Commission.

SPONSORED BY:  
British Consulate-General, San Francisco  
[www.BritainUSA.com/af](http://www.BritainUSA.com/af)

AND BY:  
EAST BAY EXPRESS





# ZOO LIGHTS

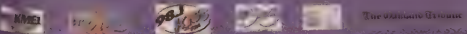


At The Oakland Zoo

November 28 - January 4 • 5:30 pm - 9 pm  
(9:30 pm weekends) weather permitting

Visit [www.oaklandzoo.org](http://www.oaklandzoo.org)  
for tickets and information.

Watch as The Oakland Zoo turns into an exotic winter wonderland after dark with 200,000 twinkling lights during the Bay Area's largest holiday lights display. Meet your friends at ZooLights for a leisurely stroll or train ride. Plan your holiday office party under the stars. Special rate for groups of 12 or more. Free Parking.



## Or do you prefer sports?

You'll love the variety of hotel packages in Oakland! There are a hundred surprising things to do in Oakland. Call (510) 839-9000 for a free 60-page Destination Guide, or check us on the web: [oaklandcvb.com](http://oaklandcvb.com)

Oakland  
the airport that works for you

**CCVB**  
oakland  
convention  
& visitors  
bureau

# OAKLAND CITY CENTER SHORESTEIN Holiday Events 2003

## Christmas Celebration

Wednesday, December 3rd  
Noon-1:00pm

Music by Oakland Interfaith Gospel  
Choir and a visit from Father Christmas.

## Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 7th  
2pm-3:30pm

Watch the Oakland Holiday Parade at City Center; featuring floats and giant inflatable balloons.

## Chanukah Celebration

Wednesday, December 10th  
Noon-1:00pm

Celebrate the traditions of Chanukah with a performance by Klezmania

## SPCA Pet Adoptions

Monday-Friday Year Round  
11:00am-3:00pm

## Kwanzaa Celebration

Wednesday, December 17th  
Noon-1:00pm

Kick off the Kwanzaa season at City Center with a performance by the West African High Life Band.

## Piano in the lobby of 1111 Broadway

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays  
December 1st-19th

Monday & Wednesday  
lunchtime 11:30am - 1:30pm

Friday afternoons 4:30pm - 6:30pm

## Roaming Carolers

Wednesday & Friday  
December 3rd-19th  
11:00am - 1:00pm

Dates and times  
subject to change

Event hotline 510/628-8490 • [www.oaklandcitycenter.com](http://www.oaklandcitycenter.com)





# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From all of us at*

## HILLS NEWSPAPERS

CONTRACOSTATIMES.COM

**The Berkeley Voice  
The Journal  
The Montclarion  
The Piedmonter  
Alameda Journal**

### *Call Us for All of Your Advertising Needs*

#### **Alameda**

Alise Galatian (510) 748-1673  
Kimberly Smith (510) 748-1678

#### **Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany**

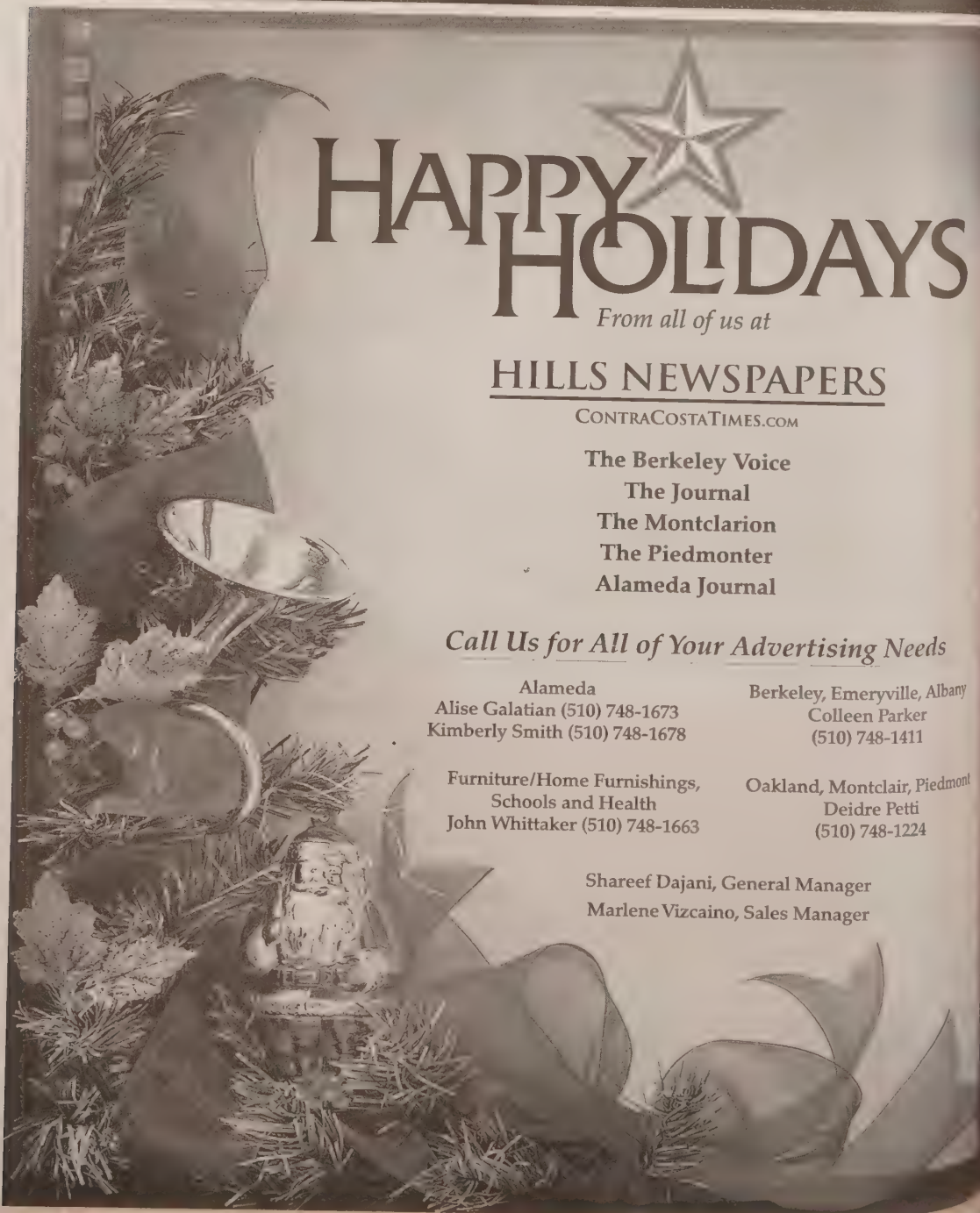
Colleen Parker  
(510) 748-1411

**Furniture/Home Furnishings,  
Schools and Health  
John Whittaker (510) 748-1663**

#### **Oakland, Montclair, Piedmont**

Deidre Petti  
(510) 748-1224

**Shareef Dajani, General Manager  
Marlene Vizcaino, Sales Manager**







# Need a Tax Deduction?

Please Donate Your  
Car, Boat or RV today.



*Your Gift Supports Services for PEOPLE IN NEED!*



Volunteers of America  
Bay Area

*There are No Limits to Caring*

1. Families in Need
2. Low Income Elderly
3. Emergency
4. Homeless

For More Information Call:

**1-800-559-5458**

Donate on Line

[www.voaba.org](http://www.voaba.org)

FREE Pick-Up Arranged At

YOUR CONVENIENCE





**Now Open! Alameda's Newest Hotel**

**HAWTHORN**  
SUITES LTD.

Alameda



"More of What You Need,  
When You Need It!"  
**FREE High Speed  
Internet Access**

Join Hyatt Gold Passport and  
start earning free nights at Hawthorn  
Suites and Hyatt Hotels and Resorts.

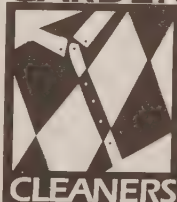
**HYATT**  
GOLD PASSPORT

1628 Webster St. Alameda, CA-94501 •

[www.hawthorn.com](http://www.hawthorn.com)

Tel: (510) 522-1000 • Fax: (510) 522-1011 • Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-527-1133

**GARDEN**



- Professional Dry Cleaning
- Quality Shirt Laundry
- We Operate Our Own Plant

**1529 Webster St., Alameda**

**(510) 522-8299**

Mon-Fri 7am-6:30pm

Sat 8am-6pm

**\$5 OFF**

**ANY DRY CLEANING**  
WITH ORDER OF \$28 OR MORE



One Coupon  
Per Order  
Exp. 12/03  
Must present  
coupon with order

**1529 WEBSTER ST.  
522-8299**

**\$3 OFF**

**ANY DRY CLEANING**  
WITH ORDER OF \$15 OR MORE



One Coupon  
Per Order  
Exp. 12/03  
Must present  
coupon with order

**1529 WEBSTER ST.  
522-8299**



**東海海鮮酒家**

**EAST OCEAN**  
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Chinese Cuisine, Seafood, Dim Sum in Hong Kong

FREE PARKING LOT, OPEN 7 DAYS

Business Hours: 10am-9:30pm

Dim Sum Served: 10am-2:30pm

Phone: (510) 865-3381 • Fax: 510-865-7088

1713 Webster St., Alameda

*Happy Holidays*  
from **Cliff Mederia Chevron**

Auto Service Mon-Fri 8-5

Food Mart Open 24 Hours • 7 Days a Week



**1802 Webster St.**

**Alameda**

**522-8459**

**TAVISTOCK  
BOOKS**

• **We Buy Books** •



First Editions,  
Rare & Collectible

1503 Webster St.

**814-0480**

Open by Chance  
or by Appointment

**FB**

**FINANCIAL BENEFITS CREDIT UNION**

*"Big Enough to Matter,  
Small Enough to Care"*

- Consumer Loans
- Floating Homes
- Car Loans
- Certificates
- Financial Services
- IRA's

Member owned since 1931

**Financial Benefits Credit Union**  
1528 Webster Street

**(510) 433-9200**

[www.fbcu.net](http://www.fbcu.net)



**SK Auto**

Complete Automotive Care

**Sam Koka**

Owner

650 Pacific Avenue

Alameda, CA 94501

Phone: (510) 865-3381

Fax: (510) 865-7088

email: [sk\\_auto@msn.com](mailto:sk_auto@msn.com)

*Calafia Tacos*

...Real Fresh Mexican Food



*Check out Testimonials*  
from Some of our Happy Clients  
**1.888.256.1548 ext. 9030**

We are located at  
**1445 Webster Street**  
between Santa Clara & Taylor in Alameda

Open Monday thru Saturday 10am-10pm  
Sundays 10am-8pm

**Bus. ph. 510.522.2996/fax 522.2997**



**WEBSTER STREET PHARMACY**  
**ALAMEDA, CA 94501**

**Phone: 522-3066 Fax: 522-3669**

*corner of Lincoln and Webster Sts.*

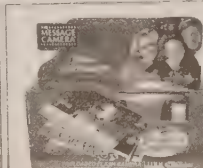
**Hours: Monday through Saturday 8:00am - 6:00pm**

Home Delivery - Mastercard & Visa accepted • We accept all Rx Insurance  
 Sale starts today for 7 days • Quantities limited to stock on hand



**Cialis Tablets**

Available at our pharmacy  
 (Rx only)



**7.99**

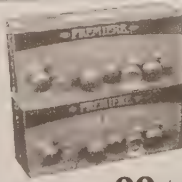
**Christmas  
 Message  
 Flash Camera**

Holiday messages at the  
 bottom of each photo  
 27 exposures



**2 for 4.99**

**Royal Dansk® Danish Cookies**  
 16 oz. \$2.69 ea.



**Your Choice 99¢**  
**Premiere® Cordial Cherries**  
 Assorted flavors 8 oz.

**O'Connell  
 VOLVO**

**THE VOLVO SPECIALISTS**



**Parts and Service • Used Volvo Sales**

**Featuring E&J Wireless and The Lab Recording Studio**

O'Connell will celebrate  
 their 20-year anniversary in  
 July 2004.

We specialize in Volvo  
 parts, service and used  
 Volvos.

Some of our specials  
 include: Brake Service,  
 Major and Minor Service  
 and a \$24.95 oil change.

[oconnell1@earthlink.net](mailto:oconnell1@earthlink.net)

**Michael O'Connell**  
**(510) 865-7255**

**1537 Webster Street**  
**Alameda**

Newly formed **E&J Wireless** is  
 offering some of the best deals on the  
 Island **GUARANTEED**. If you're sick of  
 bad reception and overpriced phone  
 bills, this is your one stop shop. With T-  
 Mobile you just get more. Now keep  
 your same number!

**Joe Ruhnke and Eric Hilson**  
**(510) 865-0105**

**The Lab Recording Studio** has  
 full production from voice-over to  
 recording vocals, and I supply to  
 instrumentals. Your one stop recording  
 studio. Remastering also available.

**Azar D. Benabou**  
**(510) 205-2690**

**1537 Webster Street**  
**Alameda**

***Shop Alameda  
 for the Holidays***

**Harbor Bay Landing**

**South Shore Center**

**Park Street**

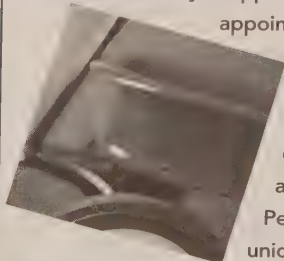
**Webster**





## Give a timeless gift and get the gift of time.

The holidays can be a hectic time. At Red Wagon, we make holiday shopping fun and easy. Shop by appointment after work. Free gift wrapping. You shop, we'll ship or we'll shop and ship for you. Festive, special occasion attire for kids . . . and so much more. Personalized service, unique selection.



Just in time for the holidays.  
Red Wagon.  
Classic children's clothing,  
shoes, accessories, toys  
and gifts. Timeless service.



Special Delivery Service - Home Delivery - Free Delivery to Berkeley  
Free Delivery - Pick up & Drop off - Delivery - Free Delivery to Berkeley



## Silver Lining Jewelry

- Wide Selection of Sterling Silver & 14kt Jewelry
- Watch and Jewelry Repair
- Ear - Piercings
- Distributors of "Boma", "Zarah", "Entropics", and "Anne Lewis"
- Seiko and Citizen Watches
- Bulova and Seiko Clocks
- 20% discount on the birthstones(s) of the month every month!



FREE  
GIFT WRAP

Monday through Saturday 10:30 - 5:30

3340 Lakeshore Avenue

(510) 465-5111

## Grand Lake Farmers' Market

at the NHD Splash and Shake!

Celebrate the  
Holiday Harvest!

Saturdays  
10am-2pm

FRESH FROM THE FARM

Enjoy fresh winter crops and organic produce...  
Satsuma mandarins, kiwi, tangerines, navel  
oranges, fuji apples, persimmons, walnuts, sweet  
potatoes, one-of-a-kind gifts from selected fine  
artists & California Certified Producers.

Every Saturday, 10am-2pm, Rain or Shine, Grand Ave & Lakepark Way  
Across from the Grand Lake Theater, Oakland  
Market Hotline (800) 897-3276

## RETIREMENT -SEEKING BUYER- SALE!

JUST IN TIME FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS!  
Save on all

SAVINGS  
UP TO

60%  
AND MORE!

Clip this Coupon and Take an Additional

10% OFF!  
On selected items

CHRISTENSEN HELLER GALLERY

3831 College Avenue  
Oakland

510-833-3432





# MONTCLAIR

## mortgage



Scott & Karen Senzig  
Broker/Owners

MAX

Credit  
Challenged  
OK!

### "MAX"IMIZE YOUR MORTGAGE

Purchase • Refinance • SBA  
• Construction • Residential • Commercial

**Call 510-339-8511**

CA Dept. of Real Estate Licensed Broker (916) 227-0931  
• RE Brokers License #00758994

## Sarber's CAMERAS

Since 1961

AWARD  
WINNING  
1 HOUR  
PHOTO

Be Sure.

- Fully automatic, compact 2.3x Zoom (38mm-90mm) 35mm camera.
- Ultra-compact, take anywhere design with stylish & durable aluminum body covers.
- Five Programmed Image Control (PIC) modes optimize camera settings for best results.
- 3-point AI/AF Smart Autofocus plus 6-mode light guide zoom flash with Red-Eye Reduction.



Includes Canon U.S.A., Inc. 1-year Limited Warranty/Registration Card. Warranty available for inspection at authorized Canon dealers.

Canon  
SURE SHOT

**90u**  
DATE

**\$119.99**

Extremely compact and lightweight, the 8x25 IS introduces a new kind of Image Stabilization to the most popular size of binoculars.

- World's smallest & lightest IS Binoculars (As of February, 2002).
- High efficiency Tri-System Image Stabilizer system.
- Especially designed for better comfort and easier usage.
- High quality all glass Canon optics with Super Spectra coating for excellent sharpness and contrast.

**Canon  
BINOCULARS 8x25 IS \$299.99**

Bring the World Closer  
with Canon



Includes Canon 1-year international warranty/registration card and 2-year extended USA warranty. Warranty available for inspection at authorized Canon dealers.

Montclair  
1938 Mountain Blvd.  
Oakland, CA  
(510) 339-8545

Portrait & Frame  
8232 LaSalle Ave.  
Oakland, CA  
(510) 339-8565

Berkeley  
1749 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 526-0775

[www.sarberscamera.com](http://www.sarberscamera.com)

## Gifts for the Discerning Palate



Hand Picked  
and Hard to Find  
Wines, Spirits, and  
Brews. Gift Certificates,  
Accessories, Premium  
Cigars, and Gift Bags.

We personally select  
every bottle we offer.  
Let us help you find  
the right gift for that  
someone special.

**339-8405**  
OPEN 7 DAYS

**MONTCLAIR VILLAGE**  
**WINES, SPIRITS n' BREW**

6140 MEDAU PL.  
(AT MT. BLVD.)

THE ART OF WINE SELECTION



## A World Of Gifts In Store For You!



Share the world's cultural traditions with gifts  
that bind and bring us all closer together.  
Montclair Village's Most Complete Gift Store.  
Books, Music, Jewelry, Textiles, Sculptures ...  
and more!

6128 La Salle Avenue (510) 339-8152  
[www.culturestore.com](http://www.culturestore.com)





## The Spa at Harbor Bay

Massage  
Facials  
Glycolic Peels  
Waxing  
Threading  
Salt Glows  
Mud Wraps  
Spa Shop  
Lash Tinting  
Make-Overs

Steam Room  
Sauna  
Hot Tub

Bring this ad  
in and get  
**10% OFF**  
any Spa  
Service until  
**1/31/04**

Discount does not apply  
to Gift Certificate  
purchase or Series Cards.  
Can not combine with  
any other promotion.

**Open 7 days a week**  
**Public Welcome**  
Child Care Available

www.harborbayclub.com  
200 Packet Landing Road, Alameda  
510-521-5416 ext. 125

## Give the Gift of Warmth and Comfort Slippers by...



L.B. Evans' since 1884

HARFORD

DANIEL'S GREEN



# Carlin's



2224 South Shore Center  
Alameda

# LA BODEGA FURNITURE

**GREAT SELECTION & PRICES  
YOU WILL LOVE**



Sofa/Love Seat.....from **\$499**  
5-pc. Dinette.....from **\$169**  
5-pc. Bedroom Set.....from **\$199**  
3-pc. Coffee Table Set.....from **\$89**

### MATTRESSES

Twin size.....from **\$89**  
Full size.....from **\$99**  
Queen size.....from **\$149**  
King size.....from **\$199**  
**FUTONS**.....from **\$189**

**(510) 261-6740**  
Fax (510) 261-6745

2920 International Blvd., Oakland • www.lalabodega.com

## Season's Greetings

We wish you every  
Happiness during the  
Holidays and in the  
Coming New Year!

**JASPER CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN**

For all Your Remodeling Needs

**510.864.0394**

GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTOR





# ALAMEDA'S PREMIER COSTUME AND PARTY CLOTHING STORE

## Renaissance Treasures by JoJo Bejano • 510-521-9233

1629 Park Street, Corner of Park and Pacific

Evening Gowns  
Beaded Jackets  
Prom Dresses

Fine Crystal  
And Victorian Jewelry



### We carry the best costumes, clothing and gifts for all seasons!

#### Romance Novel And Bridal Dresses

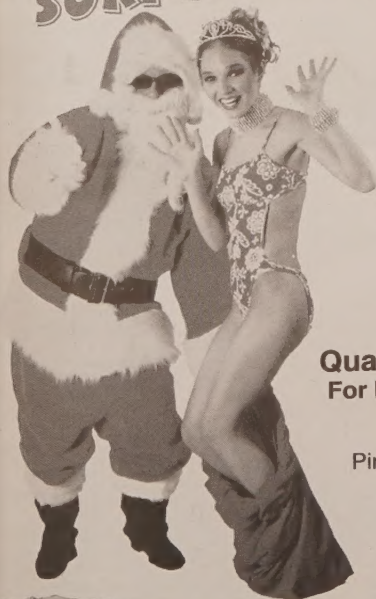
Treasure Boxes  
Jeweled Slippers  
Embroidered Skirts  
Spanish Shawls



### SURPRISE!

#### Quality Costumes For Men And Women

Wench Dresses  
Pirate Shirts and Hats  
Period Costumes  
Flapper Attire  
Belly Dancer Attire



**Sale Item of the Month!**  
The Palace Dress! Reg. price \$339  
**NOW \$250!** (While supplies last)

Hats, Cloaks  
and Wigs



Mardi Gras  
Masks, Boas



### OPEN EVERYDAY DURING THE HOLIDAYS!





# HoHoHo with US

**We can take care of just  
about anybody on your list.**

What's even better is that we're just around the corner. South Shore Center has over 65 stores to choose from. From dvd's to duvets to diamonds... we've got the gifts your family wants most. And that makes holiday shopping easier than ever. We're remodeling, re-decorating and making everything better. Because we want to be the place where Alameda shops!

**We're on Park and Otis, with plenty of free parking.**  
**www.southshorecenter.com • 510-521-1515**



*Join us  
in the  
Season of  
Giving*

**Donate Food to  
the 2003 Holiday  
Food Drive**

**Marine Corps  
Reserve Toys &  
Tots Drive**

**December 19th  
Donate a new  
unwrapped toy**

**2nd Annual  
Salvation Army  
Giving Tree  
Program**

**Give new toys to  
needy children**

**Alameda Youth  
Concerts**

**Saturdays,  
Dec 6th and 13th  
1:00-3:00pm**

**Take Pictures  
With Santa**

• **Sunday,  
November 30th  
12noon-6pm**

• **Friday,  
December 20th  
12noon-7pm**

• **Sat & Sun,  
December 21st & 22nd  
12noon-8pm**

• **Daily,  
December 23rd-29th  
12noon-7pm**

• **Christmas Eve,  
December 24th  
12noon-6pm**